TASMANIAN VEGETATION FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY 2017

For further information please contact:

State Fire Management Council
Phone (03) 6225 8533,
or email at sfmc@fire.tas.gov.au

Online information available at:
www.sfmc.tas.gov.au

This policy supersedes the State Vegetation Fire Management Policy 2012 V4.2

Contents

Message from the State Fire Management Council Chairperson

The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) has a legislative function to develop a State vegetation fire management policy.

This policy aims to articulate the agreed principles and strategies that will be used by all Tasmanian's to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities.

The latest review of the policy has been developed with extensive input from a large range of stakeholders. SFMC adopted the position that 'if as a group we have a common understanding of principles, language, each other's needs and processes, we immediately create efficiencies and promote communication and collaboration'. It is this philosophy that we have attempted to embed into this new version of the policy.

Bushfire causes significant damage to our people, communities, social and cultural values, industries, environment and infrastructure. This damage is exacerbated by climate change, and will increase if we don't adopt consistent approaches to vegetation fire management.

Fire will always be a part of the Tasmanian landscape, be it bushfire, cultural management or planned fuel reduction burning. This policy has a role to guide vegetation fire management in Tasmania, not to remove fire from the landscape. The policy promotes the use of a range of tools to manage the negative impacts from fire to tolerable levels, and to work together in a consistent way.

SFMC is confident that this policy will go a long way in supporting Tasmanian's understanding of the role of fire in the landscape, and in managing their bushfire risk.

Ian Sauer
Chairperson, State Fire Management Council

Acknowledgment of Country

The SFMC acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, past and present, as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land.

Prior to European colonisation, Aboriginal people actively used fire as a sophisticated tool to continually manage and modify the landscape. The detailed knowledge of the patterns of burning and fire regimes applied by Aboriginal people is incomplete, however, there is good evidence that the patterns of vegetation observed in the landscape today are strongly influenced by past Aboriginal burning.

The broad patterns of vegetation in the Tasmanian landscape shaped by Aboriginal fire regimes over thousands of years are still significant to Aboriginal people. The results of Aboriginal vegetation fire management can still be seen today in the heathy coastal plains of the West Coast and the open grasslands of the Midlands.

1. Introduction

Bushfire has been a constant and natural phenomenon in Australia for many thousands of years. South-eastern Australia, including Tasmania, is particularly prone to bushfire and is regarded as one of the most bushfire-affected regions in the world. Although fire forms an important part of the environment and remains essential for biodiversity and renewal; its effects can be catastrophic if uncontrolled.

Bushfire remains the greatest aggregated natural hazard risk to Tasmania, a risk that is increasing under a changing climate.

This version of the 'Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy' has involved extensive consultation and participation by a wide range of stakeholders. It is seen as the first step in developing a contemporary framework for vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

The SFMC is established under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* (Tasmania). It is an independent body that has a responsibility to provide advice to the Minister and the State Fire Commission about vegetation fire management across Tasmania, particularly in the areas of bushfire prevention and mitigation. A principal function of the SFMC is to develop a State vegetation fire management policy. The State Vegetation Fire Management Policy was first approved in 2009. For this release the Policy has been renamed the Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy.

2. Authorising Environment

This policy is prepared pursuant to the *Fire Service Act 1979* (see *Figure 1*).

Figure 1   Authorising environment

Legislative basis	Section 15 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*			
Policy	State Fire Management Council Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy			
Direction and guidance for all vegetation fire management activities in Tasmania	Prevention	Preparedness	Response	Recovery
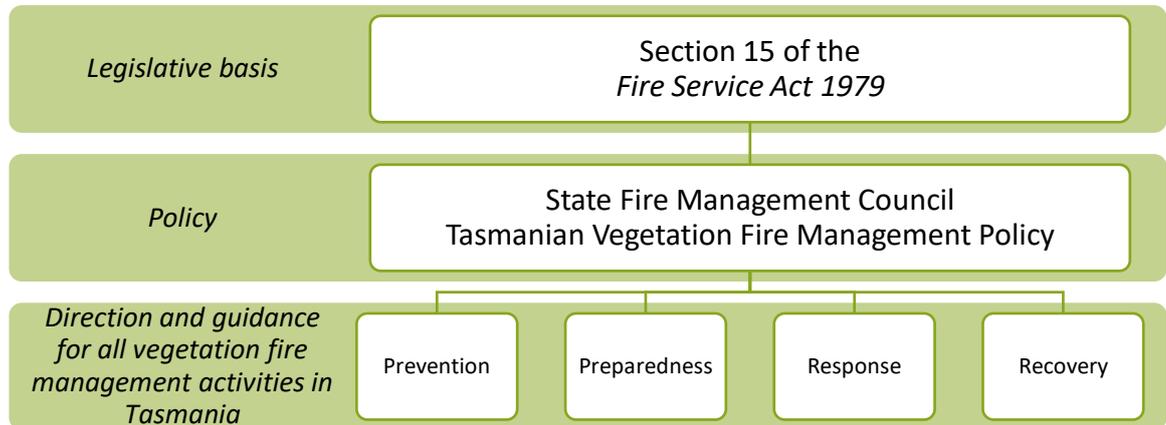
2.1   When does the Policy apply?

Each Fire Management Area Committee will ensure, in accordance with s. 20(1)(d)(ii) of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, that its Fire Protection Plan is consistent with this Policy.

The Tasmania Fire Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Municipal Councils represented by the Local Government Association of Tasmania, and forestry companies represented by the Forestry Industries Association of Tasmania agree to apply this Policy, including its Principles and Strategies, to all vegetation fire management activities that they undertake.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association endorses this Policy as a best practice guideline that should be applied by all primary producers undertaking fire management activities.

The SFMC encourages all Tasmanian organisations and individuals to apply the guidance in this Policy when conducting vegetation fire management activities.

3. Key Expressions in this Policy

To promote the use of common terminology, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) Bushfire Glossary will be used as reference in this Policy (see *Section 7).*

The definition of '**bushfire**' is:

> *'Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.'*

The definition of '**bushfire management**' is:

> *'All those activities directed to prevention, detection, damage mitigation and suppression of bushfires. Includes bushfire legislation, policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of firefighters, planning, communications systems, equipment research, and the multitude of field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency services personnel relating to bushfire control'.*

The definition of '**fuel management**' is:

> *'Modification of fuels by prescribed burning, or other means.'*

The definition of '**vegetation fire**' is:

> *'All fire in vegetation, both planned and unplanned. Unplanned vegetation fire is more specifically known as bushfire.'*

The definition of '**vegetation fire management activity**' is:

> *All activities that relate to the control, use and management of vegetation. Includes for agriculture/silvicultural purposes, cultural practice, weed management, bushfire mitigation, ecological management and bushfire suppression. It includes legislation, policy, procedure, planning and operational activities.*

4. Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to enable the safe and effective conduct of vegetation fire management activities on public and private land across Tasmania to achieve a range of community, cultural, agricultural, silvicultural and environmental objectives.

This Policy outlines the Principles and Strategies by which vegetation fire management will occur in Tasmania. Guidance on how to apply the Principles and Strategies is in *Appendix A*.

The Principles and Strategies have been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and reflect our shared understanding and objectives for vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

4.1 Principles

All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:

P-1   Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.

P-2   Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.

P-3   A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

P-4   The paramount priority is to protect human life.

P-5   Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.

P-6   Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.

P-7   Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.

4.2 Strategies

All stakeholders agree that:

S-1   Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.

S-2   In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.

Vegetation fire management activities will:

S-3   Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.

S-4   Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.

Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:

S-5   Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.

S-6   Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.

S-7   Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.

Decisions about vegetation fire management will:

S-8   Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.

S-9   Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).

S-10 Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.

S-11 Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.

All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:

S-12 Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.

S-13 Act in good faith.

4.3 Responsibility

R-1   The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.

5. Review Period

This Policy will be reviewed every five years.

6. Endorsement

This Policy has been endorsed by the Members of the State Fire Management Council, on behalf of their respective organisations, and by the State Fire Commission and noted by the State Emergency Management Committee, for a term of five years.

State Fire Management Council

Ian Sauer
Chairperson

Chris Arnol
Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service

Steve Whiteley
Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable
Timber Tasmania

John Whittington
Director of National Parks and Wildlife

John Atkinson
Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers
Association nominee

Katy Edwards
Forest Industries Association of
Tasmania nominee

Katrena Stephenson
Chief Executive Officer, Local
Government Association of Tasmania

This policy has been endorsed by the State Fire Commission

Rod Sweetnam
Chairperson

This policy has been noted by the State Emergency Management Committee

Darren Hine
Chairperson

This policy has been noted by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management on 19 January 2018

7. Definitions

To promote the use of common terminology, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) Bushfire Glossary will be used as reference in this policy.

Term	Definition
Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC)	The peak representative body for fire, emergency services and land management agencies in the Australasian region. It develops and promotes national standards for the fire industry.
Assets	Anything valued by people which includes houses, crops, forests, and in many cases, the environment.
Bushfire	Unplanned vegetation fire. A generic term which includes, grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires both with and without a suppression objective.
Bushfire management	All those activities directed to prevention, detection, damage mitigation and suppression of bushfires. Includes relevant legislation, policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of firefighters, planning, communications systems, equipment, research, and the multitude of field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency services personnel relating to bushfire control.
Bushfire risk	Processes, occurrences or actions that increase the likelihood of fires occurring.
Climate	The atmospheric conditions of a place over an extended period of time.
Control	The overall direction of response activities in an emergency situation. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency response plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking and coordinating other response personnel in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies.
Detection	The discovery of a fire. Individuals, fire towers, reconnaissance aircraft and automatic devices may be used, either alone or in combination.
Ecological burning	A form of prescribed burning. Treatment with fire of vegetation in nominated areas to achieve specified ecological objectives.
Fire management	All activities associated with the management of fire prone land, including the use of fire or other means to meet land management goals and objectives.
Fire suppression	The activities connected with restricting the spread of a fire following its detection and before making it safe.
Fire threat	The impact a fire will have on a community.

Term	Definition
Fuel	Any material such as grass, leaf litter and live vegetation which can be ignited and sustains a fire. Fuel is usually measured in tonnes per hectare.
Fuel management	Modification of fuels by prescribed burning, or other means.
Fuel modification	Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).
Fuel reduction	Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control.
Fuel reduction burning	The planned application of fire to reduce hazardous fuel quantities; undertaken in prescribed environmental conditions within prescribed boundaries.
Hazard	A source of potential harm or a situation with potential to cause loss.
Legislation	A set of laws made by a State, Territory or Federal Government; includes acts and regulations.
National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG)	A contextualised, emergency-related risk assessment method to enable consistent and rigorous emergency-related risk assessments, increase the quality and comparability of risk assessments and improve the national evidence base on emergency-related risks. The outputs from NERAG risk assessments are intended to improve decision making when allocating scarce resources for risk treatment and emergency prevention and preparedness measures.
Planning	The collective and collaborative efforts by which agreements are reached and documented between people and organisations to meet their communities' vegetation fire management needs. It is a sequence of steps which details how the process will take place.
Preparation	See preparedness
Preparedness	All activities undertaken in advance of the occurrence of an incident to decrease the impact, extent and severity of the incident and to ensure more effective response activities.
Prescribed burn	A fire utilised for Prescribed burning.
Prescribed burning	The controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity, and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives. Also known as planned burning.
Prevention	All activities concerned with minimising the occurrence of incidents, particularly those of human origin.

Term	Definition
Recovery	The coordinated process of supporting emergency affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.
Response	Actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an incident to ensure that is effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support.
Risk	The exposure to the possibility of such things as economic or financial loss or gain, physical damage, injury or delay, as a consequence of pursuing a particular course of action. The concept of risk has two elements, i.e. the likelihood of something happening and the consequences if it happens. (AS4360).
State Fire Commission (SFC)	The State Fire Commission is the peak governing and policy group for the Tasmania Fire Service.
State Fire Management Council (SFMC)	Appointed under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* with the responsibility of developing a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning. And, to provide advice to both the Minister and the State Fire Commission on matters relating to the prevention or mitigation of vegetation fires.
Tasmania Fire Service (TFS)	The operational arm of the State Fire Commission, established by the *Fire Service Act 1979*.
Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG)	Guidelines produced by the State Emergency Management Committee to support Tasmanian emergency management committees and hazard management authorities to prepare emergency risk assessments in line with the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG).
Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment (TSNDRA) 2016	An assessment of the state level risks associated with bushfires, storms, severe weather events, earthquakes, landslips, coastal inundation, heatwaves, and human influenza pandemic, in Tasmania.
Values at risk	The natural resources or improvements that may be jeopardised if a fire occurs.
Vegetation fire	Covers all fire in vegetation, both planned and unplanned. Unplanned vegetation fire is more specifically known as bushfire.
Vegetation fire management activity	All activities that relate to the control, use and management of vegetation. Includes for agriculture/silvicultural purposes, cultural practice, weed management, bushfire mitigation, ecological management and bushfire suppression. It includes legislation, policy, procedure, planning and operational activities.

8. Guide to Implementation

The Policy states the Principles and Strategies that will be used for vegetation fire management in Tasmania. The Principles and Strategies should be used to guide planning, decision-making and implementation of vegetation fire management activities.

The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity (*Policy R-1*).

This Appendix provides guidance about how the Policy might be applied to different contexts.

The diagrams and other tools included in this section are intended only as a guide.

8.1 Relationship between risk management frameworks and this Policy

Broadly speaking, the Policy may apply in two different situations (*Figure 2*).*Figure 2*

•   A risk assessment process identifies a bushfire risk and proposes an activity to treat the risk; or

•   An activity is proposed for some other reason, such as a legislative requirement.

Figure 2   Relationship between risk and activity
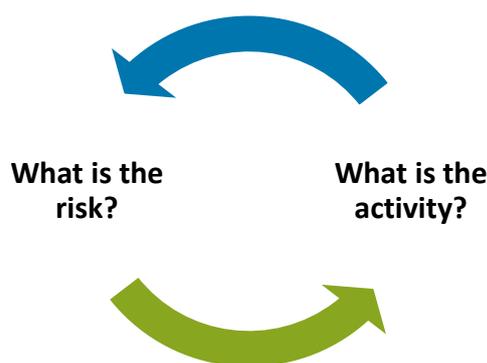
In both situations, the Policy requires a risk-based approach to the activity *(Policy P-3, S-3 and S-9).*

A variety of tools exist to assist organisations and individuals to conduct risk assessments and implement risk management frameworks.[1] This Guide to Implementation does not seek to replicate those tools. This Guide contains additional tools that relate specifically to the application of this Policy, including the aspects of the Policy that address matters other than risk management.

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[1] Resources include: Tasmanian eGovernment website –«www.egovernment.tas.gov.au» > Project Management > Supporting Resources > Templates > *Risk Management Plan Template and Guide v.1.1*; Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG) and Toolbox «www.ses.tas.gov.au/h/em/risk-mgmt/terag-toolbox»; and National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines «https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/handbook-10-national-emergency-risk-assessment-guidelines/».

8.2 Identifying Context and Purpose

In determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies, it may be helpful to clearly identify the context and purpose. Relevant contexts to consider may include:

- **Risk management framework** – if the activity is proposed as the outcome of a risk assessment process, what risk(s) does the activity address? In the context of your organisation's risk management framework, how severe are the risks?

- **Legislative framework** (see Appendix B) – is the activity being conducted pursuant to a statutory power or a legislative requirement? What are the powers, functions, requirements and constraints imposed by that framework? Is any other legislation relevant?

- **Geographical** – in what region and on what scale does your organisation operate? Are other regions and/or scales also relevant to the identified risk or the proposed activity?

8.3 Identifying "The Activity"

Once the risk has been identified, the first step in planning for and conducting any vegetation fire management activity is to clearly identify the activity (*Figure 3*), ideally in just one sentence.

Figure 3   Identifying the activity

What is the activity?

8.4 Stakeholder Identification and Engagement

A wide range of tools are available to assist in stakeholder identification and engagement either generally, or specifically in the context of vegetation fire management.[2] Some additional tools are included here.

A simple way to identify stakeholders may be to consider the process from the point of view of the risk that the activity is seeking to address, as illustrated in *Figure 4*.

Figure 4   Stakeholder identification by reference to process

Bushfire Risk	Vegetation Fire Management Activity	Desired Outcome
• **Shared Risk** *Whose life, property or values are at risk from bushfire?* • **Shared Responsibility** *Who has statutory or other responsibilities in relation to risk?* • **Shared Consequences** *Who will bear the costs if the risk eventuates?*	• **Information** *Who has relevant or necessary knowledge, information or expertise?* • **Cooperation** *Whose assistance, funds, resources or cooperation are needed?* • **Permission or Authority** *Whose permission, authorisation or agreement is needed?*	• **Interests Affected** *Which people and whose property or values will or may be affected?* • **Influence or Control** *Who has control or influence over whether the desired outcome is achieved?*

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[2]   Resources include: Collaboration – A Tasmanian Government Approach – «www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/policy/collaboration/7»; *Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines* (TERAG) p. 31-32 «http://www.ses.tas.gov.au/h/em/risk-mgmt/terag-toolbox»; and *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience: Community Engagement Framework* – «https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/handbook-6-community-engagement-framework/».

Another approach to planning stakeholder identification and engagement is illustrated in

Figure 5   Stakeholder engagement

Why?	**Why is the activity proposed?** • *Identify the risk that is being addressed (if proposed activity is the outcome of a risk assessment process)* • *Identify any legislative or other obligation that underpins the activity (if proposed activity is a required action)*	
What?	**What is the activity? What does it seek to achieve?** • *Describe the activity in one sentence.* • *State the desired outcome in one sentence.*	
Where?	**What area, landscape or scale is the activity focused on?**	People or organisations with responsibilities for these areas, landscapes or scales are **Stakeholders**
	What other areas, landscapes or scales are relevant?	
Who?	**Whose cooperation or assistance is needed to achieve the desired outcome?**	These people, organisations or groups are **Stakeholders**
	Whose interests or values will or may be affected by the activity?	
When?	**What are the timeframes for planning and conducting the activity?**	
How?	**How will the Stakeholders be engaged and involved in planning, decision-making and carrying out the activity?**	

8.5 Identifying the Most Relevant Principles and Strategies for the Activity

The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied appropriately to the context of the activity (Policy R-1). *Figure 6* provides a set of questions that may assist organisations to identify the Principles and Strategies that are most relevant.

Figure 6   Principles and Strategies for the Activity

Principle/Strategy	Questions to Consider
PRINCIPLES	
All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:	
P-1 Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.	• (Relevant to defining "acceptable" and "unacceptable" risk)
P-2 Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.	• What consequences is the activity seeking to prevent, mitigate or address? • Will the activity create any additional risks?
P-3 A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.	• What risk or risks does the activity aim to address? • Will the activity create any additional risks?
P-4 The paramount priority is to protect human life.	• Whose lives will be at risk if there is a bushfire? • Whose lives (if any) will be placed at risk by the activity?
P-5 Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.	• What other values are or may be affected by the activity? • Are the values aligned or competing? • Whose values are they? • What is the degree of risk to each of these values as a consequence of a bushfire, or as a consequence of the proposed activity?

Principle/Strategy	Questions to Consider
P-6 *Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.*	• Identify land owners, occupiers and managers whose land or jurisdiction is or may be affected by the activity.
P-7 *Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.*	• What strategies or risk treatment options are proposed?

STRATEGIES	
All stakeholders agree that:	
S-1 *Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.*	• What is the measured risk? • What are the risk treatment options? • What level of risk treatment should apply?
S-2 *In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.*	• Does the activity relate to vegetation fire "planning" or "bushfire response"? • How will unity of effort be achieved? (Also addressed by building effective relationships with stakeholders.)
Vegetation fire management activities will:	
S-3 *Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.*	• What is the desired outcome of the activity? • How does this outcome reflect priorities identified by scientific evidence and the organisation's risk management framework?
S-4 *Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.*	• What tenures and/or jurisdictions are relevant to the activity? • At what scale(s) will or might the activity occur? • How will the activity be applied across the relevant tenure(s), jurisdiction(s) and landscape scale(s)?

Principle/Strategy		Questions to Consider
Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:		
S-5	*Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.*	• Who else has responsibility for some or all aspects of the activity? • How will the organisation involve those stakeholders in planning and decision-making?
S-6	*Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.*	• Which communities are or may be affected by the activity? • How will the organisation engage, educate and support community members to contribute to the activity?
S-7	*Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.*	• Who else may be affected by the activity? • How will the organisation engage with those stakeholders?
Decisions about vegetation fire management will:		
S-8	*Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.*	• What are the steps (process) that need to be undertaken before a decision is made? • How will the organisation carry out the process? • How can the organisation demonstrate that it is undertaking the process in good faith?
S-9	*Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).*	• What hazards, risk treatment options and consequences does the activity seek to address? • What level of risk is "acceptable"? • How can available resources be used to most effectively reduce risk?
S-10	*Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.*	• What evidence, research or information about contemporary practices is already known to the organisation? • What other information is needed? Where can it be obtained?

Principle/Strategy	Questions to Consider
S-11 Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.	• What priorities / values are or may be affected by the activity? • Are the priorities / values aligned or are they in tension? • How will tension between competing priorities / values be resolved?

All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:

S-12 Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.	• Who may be able to provide relevant information? • Who may be able to provide necessary or useful resources? • How will the cooperation of these stakeholders be obtained?
S-13 Act in good faith.	• How can the process be designed to promote good faith participation?

RESPONSIBILITIES

R-1 The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.	• As per the above questions. • The organisation may wish to document how it has addressed each of the Principles and Strategies.

8.6 Translating the Principles and Strategies into Actions and Outcomes

The table in *Figure 7* illustrates how each Principle or Strategy may be translated into Actions to be taken and Outcomes that might be achieved.

Figure 7   Principles and Strategies, Actions and Outcomes

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
PRINCIPLES		
All stakeholders acknowledge and accept that:		
P-1 *Bushfire occurs and will continue to occur in the Tasmanian landscape.*	Vegetation fire management activities are aimed at prevention, preparation, response and/or recovery from bushfire.	Adverse effects of bushfire are minimised.
P-2 *Bushfire can be a threat, not only to people and response agencies, but also to the landscape, Aboriginal and other Tasmanian cultural heritage and the Tasmanian economy.*	Vegetation fire management activities seek to address the diverse threats posed by bushfire.	Adverse effects of bushfire are minimised.
P-3 *A risk management approach will be applied to vegetation fire management in Tasmania.*	The risks posed by bushfire are identified and the degree of each risk (that is, the likelihood of occurrence and severity of outcomes) is assessed. Risks are prioritised according to the degree of risk. Risk treatment options are identified and implemented in order of priority.	Adverse effects of bushfire are minimised.
P-4 *The paramount priority is to protect human life.*	Vegetation fire management activities have the preservation of human life as their primary goal.	Loss of human life due to bushfire is avoided.

	Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
P-5	*Other priorities reflect identified community values including the protection of assets, infrastructure, cultural, historical, ecological and environmental values. The order of priority for these other values will be determined in each case using a risk-based approach.*	Stakeholders are consulted to identify, and assess the degree of risk posed to, other values by a bushfire and/or by the activity. The order of priority for preserving these other values is determined according to the assessed risks.	Other values are preserved, so far as possible, according to the determined priorities.
P-6	*Bushfire does not recognise tenure. Consequently, all land owners, occupiers and managers have a responsibility to work cooperatively to manage risk.*	Land owners, occupiers and managers are included in the planning and conducting of vegetation fire management activities.	Land owners, occupiers and managers cooperate to manage fire risk in the area.
P-7	*Fire can be used as an effective tool for vegetation fire management, risk mitigation, ecological management, silvicultural burning and as part of Aboriginal cultural practices.*	When planning vegetation fire management activities, the use of fire is considered as a possible tool, drawing on knowledge from Aboriginal cultural practices, fuel management techniques and ecological burns.	Vegetation fire management activities incorporate the appropriate use of fire as a tool to manage bushfire and fuel risks.
STRATEGIES			
All stakeholders agree that:			
S-1	*Bushfire risk will be assessed and, where appropriate, managed by actions to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring and/or to reduce the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.*	A risk assessment framework is established in relation to bushfires which identifies, assesses and prioritises bushfire risks and risk treatment options. The framework is used to guide decisions how to manage bushfire and bushfire risks.	The risks associated with bushfires are managed effectively in accordance with the risk assessment framework. The impact of bushfires is reduced.

	Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-2	*In a bushfire emergency, all stakeholders will unite in their efforts to protect human life and to protect other values.*	Vegetation fire management activities include planning for bushfire emergencies. Plans allocate roles and responsibilities and identify and prioritise relevant community values.	In a fire emergency, stakeholders unite in their efforts to preserve human life and to protect other values in accordance with the plan.
Vegetation fire management activities will:			
S-3	*Aim to achieve outcomes identified by a science-based, risk management approach.*	The risk assessment framework is based on scientific evidence about probable occurrence, severity and consequences of bushfires and effectiveness of risk treatment options. Vegetation fire management activities and their intended outcomes are identified by reference to the risk assessment framework.	Vegetation fire management activities have the greatest likelihood of effectively reducing the risk of bushfire occurring and the intensity and impact of bushfires when they do occur.
S-4	*Apply across tenures and jurisdictions and will take a landscape approach.*	Vegetation fire management activities are planned and conducted at a "landscape" scale. Relevant jurisdictions and land owners, occupiers and managers are involved in planning, decision-making and, where appropriate, conducting vegetation fire management activities.	Vegetation fire management activities are planned and conducted at a landscape scale across multiple tenures and jurisdictions.
Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will:			
S-5	*Share responsibility by involving stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes.*	Organisations intending to conduct vegetation fire management activities identify relevant stakeholders and involve them appropriately in planning and decision-making processes.	Planning and decision-making in relation to bushfires and fuel management reflect input from and the sharing of responsibility between all relevant stakeholders.
S-6	*Ensure that communities play an active role in fuel management and are engaged, educated, and supported to contribute to effective bushfire management activities.*	Organisations identify and implement ways to engage, educate and support local communities to contribute to vegetation fire management activities the organisation is conducting.	Local communities play an active role in fire and fuel management activities.

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-7	*Actively engage with and consider the values of affected stakeholders.*	Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities identify the people, groups and organisations whose values will or may be affected. The organisation implements appropriate strategies to engage the affected stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process.	Stakeholder values are taken into account in planning and conducting vegetation fire management activities. Values are prioritised using a risk management approach, with the paramount priority being to protect human life (P3, P4 and P5).
Decisions about vegetation fire management will:		
S-8	*Be process-based and undertaken in good faith.*	Decisions about vegetation fire management are based on planned, logical processes. The processes are designed and conducted in good faith.	Decisions and the decision-making process can be readily explained. Stakeholders and the broader community have confidence in the decision-making process.
S-9	*Apply a risk-based approach in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and Tasmanian Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (TERAG).*	A risk assessment framework is established in relation to bushfires which identifies, assesses and prioritises bushfire risks and risk treatment options. The framework is used to guide decisions about vegetation fire management.	Decisions are defendable and transparent. Risks are managed effectively.
S-10	*Be informed by evidence, research and contemporary practices to promote adaptability and continuous improvement.*	Planning for vegetation fire management activities will include a review of relevant evidence, research and contemporary practices. Outcome data will be collected and reviewed to identify what worked and what can be improved.	Decisions reflect up-to-date evidence, research and contemporary practices. Vegetation fire management activities are continuously adapted and improved.

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-11 *Seek to preserve and/or strike a balance between identified community values.*	Planning for vegetation fire management activities will include identifying community values that will or may be affected. Decision-making processes will incorporate consultation with stakeholders about how and to what extent the values can be preserved in accordance with the assessed order of priority (see also P-5).	As much as possible, vegetation fire management activities preserve, or have minimal adverse impact on, identified community values.

All stakeholders in vegetation fire management activities will:

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
S-12 *Collaborate and cooperate, including by appropriate sharing of information and resources.*	Planning for vegetation fire management activities will include identifying who holds relevant resources and information and inviting their cooperation. Participants in vegetation fire management activities willingly share resources and information whenever possible.	Stakeholders share information and resources so that bushfire and fuel loads are effectively managed.
S-13 *Act in good faith.*	All parties involved in vegetation fire management activities conduct themselves openly, honestly and in the spirit of jointly seeking to reduce bushfire risks.	Strong working relationships develop and support the achievement of desired outcomes for bushfire management.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Principle/Strategy	Action	Outcome
R-1 *The organisation conducting a vegetation fire management activity is responsible for ensuring that the Principles and Strategies are applied and for determining how to apply the Principles and Strategies in the context of the activity.*	Organisations determine how to apply the Principles and Strategies to vegetation fire management activities they intend to conduct, then conduct the activity in that context.	The Principles and Strategies are incorporated and implemented in all vegetation fire management activities in Tasmania.

9.   Other Relevant Legislation

The table in *Figure 8* lists other Tasmanian legislation that may be relevant to vegetation fire management activities. Organisations conducting vegetation fire management activities will need to consider whether these Acts or any other laws apply to the activity and take steps to ensure that they comply with applicable laws.

Figure 8   Relevant Tasmanian Legislation

Act	
Aboriginal Relics Act 1975	The Act to make provision for the protection and management of aboriginal relics.
Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008	An Act for certain measures to help the State address the challenges of climate change and contribute to the broader national and international response to those challenges and for related purposes.
Crown Lands Act 1976	An Act to make fresh provisions with respect to the management, sale, and disposal of the lands of the Crown.
Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995	An Act to promote efficiency and competition in the electricity supply industry, to provide for a safe and efficient system of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and supply, to provide for the safety of electrical installations, equipment and appliances, to enforce proper standards in the performance of electrical work, to protect the interests of consumers of electricity and for related purposes. This Act enables the Tasmanian Electricity Code.
Emergency Management Act 2006	The Act of precedence for all emergency risk mitigation. The planning framework for the Fire Protection Plans sits under the Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan, authorised under this Act. The fire protection plans, developed through the FMACs, are a key document to prioritise bushfire risk treatment programs and the identification of strategic management areas.
Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994	An Act to provide for the management of the environment and the control of pollution in the State. It enables the development of environmental protection policies to further the objectives of the Act.

Act

Fire Service Act 1979	This Act outlines the law relating to preventing and extinguishing fires and the protection of life and property from fire and to make provision with respect to incidental matters.
	Section 14 to 21 specifically relate to State Fire Management Council, Fire Management Area Committees and their functions.
	Section 15 (1) (a) relates to the development of the State vegetation fire management policy, to be used as a basis for all fire management planning.
Forest Management Act 2013	An Act to provide for the management of permanent timber production zone land to repeal the *Forestry Act 1920* and for related purposes.
Forest Practices Act 1985	An Act to ensure that all forest practices are conducted in accordance with the Forest Practices Code and to provide for the issue of that Code. The Forest Practices Code provides operational standards applicable to vegetation fire management.
Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993	An Act to make provision for land use planning and approvals.
Local Government Act 1993	An Act to provide for local government and establish councils to plan for, develop and manage municipal areas in the interests of their communities.
Nature Conservation Act 2002	An Act to make provision with respect to the conservation and protection of the fauna, flora and geological diversity of the State, to provide for the declaration of national parks and other reserved land and for related purposes.
National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002	An Act to provide for the management of national parks and other reserved land.
State Policies and Projects Act 1993	An Act to provide for Tasmanian Sustainable Development Policies, to provide for the integrated assessment of projects of State significance, to provide for State of the Environment Reporting and for related purposes. Policies prepared under this act bind local government and the Crown and currently include: • State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural land 2009 • State Coastal Policy 1996 • State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997.
Threatened Species Protection Act 1995	The Act to provide for the protection and management of threatened native flora and fauna to enable and promote the conservation of native flora and fauna.
Water Management Act 1999	The Act to provide for the management of water resources.

Act

Wellington Park Act 1993	An Act to establish Wellington Park, to provide for its protection, use and management and for the assessment of major projects affecting it and to make provision for incidental and consequential matters.

Figure 9   Relevant Commonwealth Legislation

Act

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	An Act relating to the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity, and for related purposes.

10. References

- [Fire Service Act 1979](#)
- [2016 Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment](#)
- [Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan, Issue 8](#)
- [State Fire Protection Plan, May 2013](#)
- [National Bushfire Management Policy Statement for Forests and Rangelands, Prepared by The Forest Fire Management Group for The Council of Australian Governments, 2014](#)
- [Bushfire in Tasmania; A new approach to reducing Statewide relative risk, July 2014](#)
- [Australia's Native Vegetation Framework, December 2012](#)
- Tasmanian Legislation Website: www.legislation.tas.gov.au
- Tasmanian Government Communications Policy: www.communications.tas.gov.au/channels/communication_strategy