

COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) met at the Rescue Heli Base at Jandakot Airport on 14 June 2021 for its second quarterly meeting.

SBAC tour of Air Operations and Rescue Helicopter Base

The SBAC enjoyed a guided tour of Air Operations by Air Operations Officer John Landwehr. Air Operations is focused on day-time All Hazards aviation and aerial firefighting response. The Council received an outline of the aviation fleet and their capabilities.



The Council then toured the Rescue Helicopter Base prior to the SBAC meeting. Manager of Emergency Rescue Helicopter Services, Steve Sartain explained the RAC rescue helicopter features and its equipment.



State Bushfire Management Policy

At the March meeting of the SBAC, members requested an out-of-session meeting to focus specifically on the development of a State Bushfire Management Policy. The Policy is a key deliverable of the SBAC, and aims to meet a recommendation of the Special Inquiry into the 2016 Waroona Fire.

Subsequently, a special session of the SBAC was held on 27 May 2021. SBAC members were invited to complete a pre-work survey that was used to inform workshop structure and content. The special session was successful in obtaining agreement to the re-focusing of the policy to a high-level statement relevant to WA communities.

At this June meeting of the SBAC, members formally agreed to the recommendations arising from the special session, and tasked the policy working group to present its final draft for decision at the September SBAC meeting. The SBAC further agreed to two additional members joining the working group, Mr Gary Peacock from the PGA and Mr Dave Gossage from the AVBFB, to support the re-focusing of the draft policy to a community-focused document.

Wooroloo Bushfire Review

The Chair provided SBAC members with a confidential overview of the outcomes of the work to-date by DFES and partner agencies in reviewing the Wooroloo Bushfire. SBAC members were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

SBAC Meetings

The next SBAC meeting is scheduled for 6 September 2021.

For SBAC related information or enquiries, please email RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au