The
Office of Bushfire Risk Management
Charter
(Current at September 2015)
The Office of Bushfire Risk Management Charter

Mission Statement
To enhance the efficient and effective management of bushfire related risk in Western Australia in order to protect people, assets and other things valuable to communities.

Functions
The functions of OBRM are:

1. To regulate prescribed burning.
2. To advise stakeholders in relation to policy, legislative frameworks, resourcing, responsibilities, best practice and standards in the context of bushfire related risk.
3. To encourage coordination and to the extent necessary integration of the relevant strategies of agencies/entities/organisations involved in the management of bushfire related risk.
4. To liaise with agencies/entities/organisations, volunteer fire brigades and community groups for the purpose of understanding things valuable to communities, volunteer needs and information exchange.
5. To promote:
   a. Community understanding of bushfire risk, the role of prescribed burns, other hazard reduction and land management methods, fire prevention techniques and community preparedness;
   b. Research into continuous improvement in the management of bushfire related risk;
   c. Harmonious working relationships across agencies/entities/organisations, communities and volunteers; and
   d. The establishment of relevant formal, accredited qualifications and set minimum standards for such qualifications.
6. To review and report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of bushfire related risk, including:
   a. The state of bushfire related risk throughout Western Australia;
   b. The effect of prescribed burning and other land management techniques;
   c. The nature and availability of resources of agencies with responsibilities for the management of bushfire related risk; and
   d. The efficacy of legislation pertaining to bushfire related risk;

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1 Regulate in this context is defined as approving, delaying or preventing prescribed burns in accordance with minimum standards and guidelines, and auditing and ensuring compliance with mandated prescription burning processes.
7. To **audit** prescribed burns with adverse outcomes in order to achieve continuous improvement.

8. To provide input into the review of bushfires where risk management (through prescribed burning or other accepted methods) has moderated or exacerbated the impacts of the bushfire through the manner or scale to which it has been undertaken.

9. Collect and analyse relevant available data on bushfire related risk.

10. Supporting and guiding agencies/entities/organisations in developing appropriate methodologies and systems that collect data appropriate for reporting bushfire related risk.

**Powers**

1. To determine whether any prescribed burn in the South West bushfire risk zone and higher risk burns state wide may proceed, be delayed or not proceed.

2. To establish and maintain standards (best practice) for bushfire risk management activities, including prescribed burning.

3. Establish and maintain a single data standard for mapping bushfire prone areas.

4. To require agencies/entities/organisations, including Local Government to report on bushfire related risk and prescribed burning to OBRM.

**Principles**

In exercising its functions and powers OBRM will follow the following principles, ensuring:

1. That risk is managed in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 31000; 2009 *Risk Management Principles and Guidelines* in order to protect people, assets and other things of value to the community;

2. Genuine, effective and efficient communication and consultation with stakeholders including communities, land owners and managers, emergency service agencies, Local Government and people/groups involved in the management of bushfire risk;

3. That risk management and related decision making is evidence-based and transparent;

4. That processes facilitate continuous improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of bushfire risk management; and

5. That decisions take into account responsibilities and capabilities of other organisations involved in the management of bushfire related risk, including DPaW, DFES, Local Government and Non-Government Organisations.