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GENERAL UPDATE – OFFICE OF BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT (OBRM)

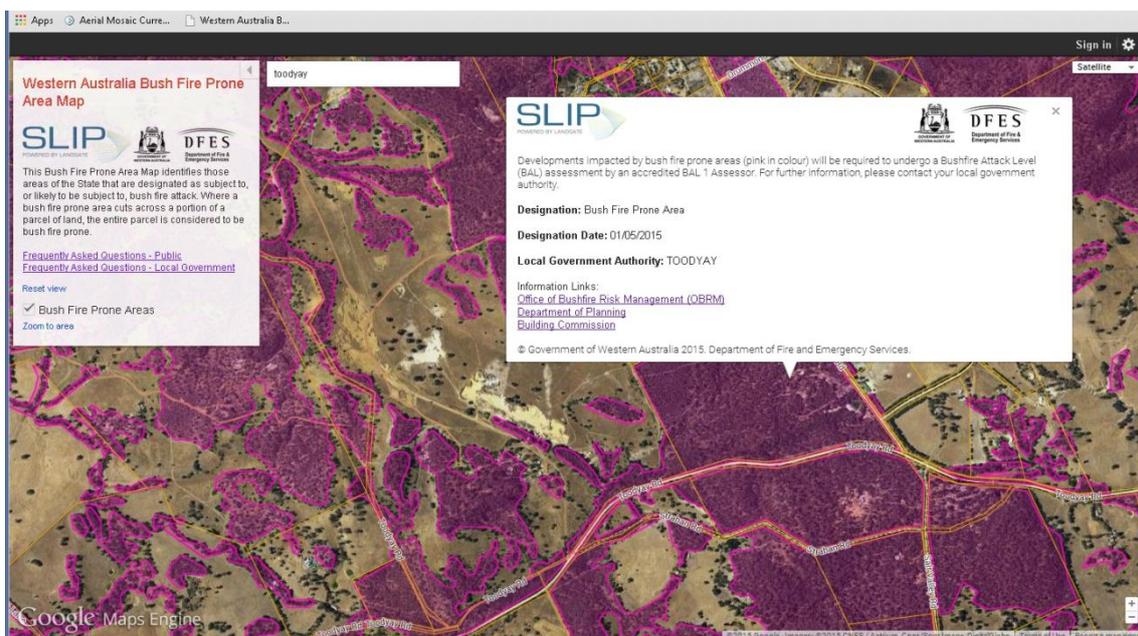
A general update on the OBRM team's key projects is provided for your information below.

Interview with WALGA

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) about the various projects that OBRM are currently progressing. During the interview, I discussed the link between OBRM's various projects and provided a broad overview of the bushfire risk management challenges these projects aim to address. The full video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/user19764051/review/119406503/8996b557f6>

Mapping Bushfire Prone Areas in Western Australia

Development of the WA Bushfire Prone Area Map is progressing, with all local government amendments to the draft Bushfire Prone Vegetation (BPV) dataset complete. The next phase is for Landgate to combine the Final BPV data to generate the Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) dataset by applying the 100m buffer to the identified vegetation. Once this is complete, a final review of the data by OBRM will take place and the BPA dataset will be verified and designated by the FES Commissioner. The Western Australia Bushfire Prone Area map will be publicly available via the DFES website, as soon as designation is possible after 1 May 2015.



A sample image showing the Western Australia Bushfire-Prone Map Viewer

Note: The above image is for *illustrative purposes only*. It does not depict actual Bushfire Prone Vegetation, or land designated as a Bushfire Prone Area.

- ***Bushfire Prone Area Mapping (BPAM) Standard Review***

As specified in the current BPAM Standard, OBRM is to complete a review after the first 12 months of operation. At present, an initial review has been undertaken and the draft document circulated to stakeholders for comment. To assist future application, the draft BPAM Standard incorporates a vegetation key that provides visual examples of the different vegetation types deemed bushfire-prone. The draft vegetation key has also been circulated to local government for their comment.

Bushfire Accreditation Framework for Western Australia

The WA Bushfire Accreditation Steering Committee was established in mid-2014 to oversee the development, implementation and operation of a Bushfire Accreditation Framework for Western Australia. The Committee includes representatives from the Department of Planning, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, OBRM and the Building Commission. OBRM continue to work with the agencies represented on the Committee to progress development of a self-regulating framework for WA. The first level of the Framework is expected to be implemented in mid-2015, with the addition of another 2 levels planned for a later stage. Further information on the proposed framework and training can be found on the Department of Planning's website at <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/7531.asp>

Bushfire Risk Management Planning (BRMP)

Earlier this year, OBRM, on behalf of DFES, engaged a Curriculum Writer to start developing a comprehensive training package for Bushfire Risk Management Planning. The training, once developed, will support extension of the BRMP program to additional local governments, beyond those involved in the BRMP pilot project in 2014.

OBRM Audit and Assurance Programs

The OBRM Analysis and Reporting team will soon be meeting with key stakeholders to plan the Assurance and Review program for 2015/16. The team has recently had the opportunity to assess the circumstances of escapes from burns of varying tenures.

These case studies will assist OBRM to identify opportunities in collaboration with local governments and other stakeholders to better align the permit to burn systems with risk management principles.



Prescribed burn – heathland; source: DFES



Prescribed burn – coastal plain forest; source: OBRM

Review of the Local Government Permit System (Permit to Burn)

Following a project undertaken in 2013/14 to trial a standard format burning permit with several southwest local governments, OBRM have commenced the next phase in this

significant body of work. Feedback from the initial project indicated support for development of a best practice guide, for use by local government and permit issuing officers. Recognising the vast differences in climate, vegetation and burning activities that occur across the State, OBRM are looking to work closely with representatives in each region to develop a best practice model, suitable for application in that region. OBRM will be engaging local practitioners and end users to participate on the proposed regional stakeholder reference groups (SRG). The SRG will be tasked with identifying the components of a best practice model and permit for their region (supported by OBRM), including development of any supporting tools or processes.

- **Kimberley Best Practice Guide**

Consultation has commenced in the Kimberley, with OBRM facilitating two sessions at the Fire Control Officers' Workshop and Fire Management Forum held in early March. Feedback from the participants identified a range of existing administrative and operational issues. Over the coming months, OBRM will assist stakeholders to address some of these issues and support their development of a best practice guide for the Kimberley.

Consultation

The OBRM team and I have been making efforts to meet with many of our stakeholders during the recent period and create opportunities to develop our stakeholders' understanding of OBRM and its functions. Below is a summary of key meetings that OBRM presented at this quarter:

- Kimberley Fire Management Forum and Fire Control Officers' Workshop
- Met with the Shires of Williams, West Arthur, Wagin, Woodanilling, Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Kent, Kulin and Wickepin
- Met with the Shire of Manjimup
- Met with the WA Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Executive
- Provided briefing to RiskCover (WA Government)
- Discussions with the Bushfire Front Inc.

We look forward to building on this and creating further opportunities next quarter.

MURRAY CARTER DIRECTOR OBRM

OBRM's 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.



Emergency Services Complex, 20 Stockton Bend, Cockburn Central WA 6164
PO Box P1174 Perth WA 6844
Tel. (08) 9395 9300 Fax. (08) 9395 9384
obrm@dfes.wa.gov.au
www.dfes.wa.gov.au