

**Review into contributing factors that led to planned burn escapes on 24 and 25 May 2018 in the South West and Great Southern Regions of Western Australia**  
**Terms of Reference**

**Background**

On 24 and 25 May 2018, a severe weather event in the South of Western Australia caused the escape of planned burns on private property and crown land. These escapes became bushfires and some resulted in damage to properties, stock and infrastructure. The Government of Western Australia is committed to managing bushfire-related risk and has requested the Office of Bushfire Risk Management to undertake a review to examine what led to the escapes and how the risk of these escapes be effectively mitigated into the future.

The review will consider whether management actions leading up to the severe weather event were adequate and whether current mechanisms to mitigate the risk of planned fire escapes are adequate.

The review will not examine the response to the fires or incident management.

**Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the review are to examine and report on:

- (a) The availability and effectiveness of information available to the public and, land owners and land managers who were responsible for burns that escaped in the South West and Great Southern Regions on the 24 and 25 May 2018.
- (b) The effectiveness of land owners' and land managers' burn management and risk mitigation activities prior to the 24 and 25 May escapes.
- (c) The governance arrangements available and in place for land owners' and land managers' to manage planned burning prior to the severe weather on the 24 May.
- (d) Adequacy of legislative provisions to manage planned burns and the extent to which these provisions are understood by agencies, local governments and their representatives.
- (e) Available measures that could practicably and effectively assist in managing the risk of escape for future planned burning activities by land owners and land managers' in Western Australia.

The final draft report will be independently reviewed by an industry expert prior to being provided to government in late September 2018 via the Executive Director Rural Fire Division and Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.