

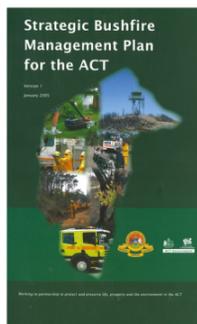
15 years of Strategic Bushfire Management Plans (SBMP)

18 January 2003

Canberra bushfires

SBMPv1

To minimise the likelihood of bushfires and their negative consequences. SBMP V1 captured key recommendations from the McLeod Inquiry and established firm foundations for significantly increased fuel hazard reduction management programs. It established practices for use of plant, aircraft, RAFT, urban planning and incident management, and focussed on community education.



SBMP V1 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Defined Bushfire Abatement Zones
- Developed Evacuation Guidelines
- Distributed *Bushfires and the Bush Capital* guide as an insert in *The Canberra Times*
- Improved bushfire response, through training and application of AIIMS
- Obtained capital funding for infrastructure and provision for heavy plant and aircraft for fire suppression
- Developed improved capability, including the use of fast attack plant, aircraft and remote area fire fighters
- Implemented Bushfire Operational Plans (BOPs)
- Conducted community awareness and education programs, including the development of *Farm Firewise*
- Conducted capability assessments and training needs analysis for the ACT Rural Fire Service
- Delivered significant changes in urban planning and design, including the establishment of partnerships and shared responsibilities between the community, land managers, planning authorities and the ESA

1 August 2003
McLeod Inquiry into the Operational Response to the January 2003 Bushfires in the ACT

1 July 2004
Emergencies Act 2004

1 July 2004
ESA established (Emergency Services Authority)

January 2005
SBMP V1 published

2005-2009
Review of effectiveness of SBMP V1

2006
Formation of Emergency Services Agency (ESA) within JACS

SBMPv2

Working together to suppress bushfires and reduce their consequences on human life, property and the environment. A framework for Government and community to work together, it identified clear policies and standards for land managers. It provided information for the community to better understand bushfires and fire management and to assist them in preparing themselves and their properties.



SBMP V2 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed detailed plans (RFMP) to manage and increase the extent of prescribed burning in the ACT to reduce fuel hazards
- Defined and mapped bushfire zones
- Defined clear policies and standards for the activities to be undertaken by land managers in the ACT
- Developed a framework by which the different agencies work together, particularly in large scale and protracted bushfire incidents
- Upgraded and enhanced equipment, including the Territory Radio Network and placed mobile data terminals in all fire fighting appliances
- Increased personnel and volunteer members and established Remote Area Fire Teams, Community Fire Units and the Mapping and Planning Support Group
- Adopted the *National Framework for Bushfire Scaled Advice and Warnings to the Community*
- Targeted education and awareness programs to better inform the community about critical actions to be taken before, during and after bushfires
- Enabled timely emergency alerts through mobile phones and the media
- Strong engagement with rural landholders regarding fire management on their land
- Introduced broad area hazard reduction in national parks and nature reserves
- Improved operational doctrine across services with the development and implementation of the *Concept of operations for bush and grass fires in the ACT*

19 December 2006
The Canberra Firestorm – Coronial Inquest into the 2003 Canberra Bushfires

Jan-Feb 2009
Victorian Bushfires

2009
Interim findings of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission

2009
National Framework for Scaled Bushfire Advice and Bushfire Warnings to the Community

October 2009
SBMP V2 published

2009-2014
Review of effectiveness of SBMP V2

2009-14
Ongoing research and modelling on bushfire management, technology and methods, weather, climate and the environment

2009-14
Technological improvements in communications and public access

2009-14
Detailed mapping of fire zones — BPAs, BAZs, SFAZs and APZs

2010
2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Report

2013
Performance Audit into Bushfire Preparedness (Report No. 5/2013)
ACT Auditor-General

2014
Legislation to clarify the Commissioner's functions, powers and responsibilities

September 2014
SBMP V3 published

September 2019

SBMPv4

SBMPv3

SBMP V3 builds and strengthens the objectives of SBMP V2. With a focus on bushfire management planning and preparedness, the importance of community engagement is strengthened while emergency services and fire managers applied improved methods, technology and knowledge for bushfire planning and management.



SBMP V3 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Updated ACT Farm FireWise program to support the rural community and ensure consistency with Land Management Agreements
- Developed and reviewed BOPs for key areas of the ACT
- Developed the *Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework* to provide assurance on the ACT's bushfire response capability
- Established Incident Management Team (IMT) capability with qualified, experienced personnel and upgraded incident management facilities
- Delivered *Living on the Edge* and *CBR Be Bushfire Ready* community engagement campaigns and community education through open days, door-knocking and public events
- Conducted reviews of fuel hazard build-ups, and measured and tracked changes in vegetation
- Reviewed the *ACT Elevated Bushfire Danger Plan*
- Developed and maintained maps of the ACT's Bushfire Prone Area (BPA)
- Updated the policy for applying bushfire related construction standards for dwellings in the ACT
- Used the National Bushfire Mitigation Program to support bushfire management activities for farmers
- Implemented the Fire Management Plan for the Lower Cotter catchment to protect the Cotter Dam water supply
- Worked with utility providers to reduce bushfire risk near power lines across the ACT
- Enhanced our aerial firefighting capability through facilities to support large aerial tanker aircraft
- Implemented Special Intelligence Gathering (SIG) unit with a helicopter-mounted high tech camera to obtain real-time data from fire grounds
- Conducted campaigns to recruit and retain volunteers and undertook an independent review of the Community Fire Unit program
- Developed tools to deploy resources, including Computer Aided Dispatch and the ACT RFS Readiness matrix
- Signed MOU with NSW for collaborative cross-border planning and response
- Reviewed MOU with ACT Policing for arson investigation
- Installed electronic Fire Danger road signs
- Developed *Bush and Grass Fire Warnings and Public Information Protocol*
- Strengthened legislation to improve operational coordination between the fire services