



**NT FIRE &
EMERGENCY
SERVICES**

STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NORTHERN TERRITORY'S BUSHFIRE HAZARD-SPECIFIC
PLAN IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY EMERGENCY PLAN



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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This Strategic Bushfire¹ Management Plan (SBMP or ‘the Plan’) fulfills the need for a hazard-specific plan under the Territory Emergency Plan² (TEP) and replaces the previous Fire Hazard Management Plan. The plan outlines the Northern Territory (NT) wide, strategic arrangements for the effective management of bushfire risk across all land tenures and service sectors.

These arrangements are aligned with existing emergency management frameworks and relevant legislation. It also sets out the Territory-wide principles and framework to maximise collaboration and unity of effort by agencies and bodies that either manage land or provide services related to bushfire management.

The Plan is not intended to unnecessarily limit government agencies or land holders concerning the management of bushfire-related risk to meet their environmental, cultural, economic and/or land management objectives.

The Plan is based on the following principles:



Fire is a valuable tool in land management and an enduring feature of the NT landscape



Bushfire occurring at the wrong time and place can be harmful to the natural and built environment, and the economy



Land holders³ have primary responsibility for managing fire on their land



Aligns with and supports NT emergency management law, policy and arrangements



Bushfire management is as seamless as possible so that treatments planned and applied are tenure blind and maximise collaboration



Response arrangements and structures follow a fully integrated approach so that the most competent and best-placed person is placed in charge of bushfire emergency response.

The Commissioner, NT Fire and Emergency Services (FES) is the owner of this Plan. Operational and service delivery doctrine (Operational orders, procedures and the like) within government agencies in support of this Plan must be consistent with its requirements.

1. ‘Bushfire’ is also called ‘wildfire’ when referring to unintended fire in the landscape and vegetation. ‘Bushfire’ when used in a general context (such as the in the title of this Plan) encompasses any fire in the landscape. Planned fire will be used in this Plan when explicitly referring to the deliberate and planned use of fire for land management, cultural or public safety purposes and may also be called ‘hazard reduction burning’, ‘prescribed burning’ or ‘burning off’.

2. pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2024/1.%20Territory%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf

3. The term ‘land holder’ is used in the Plan as a general term to encompass land owners and occupiers. See also the Plan Glossary.



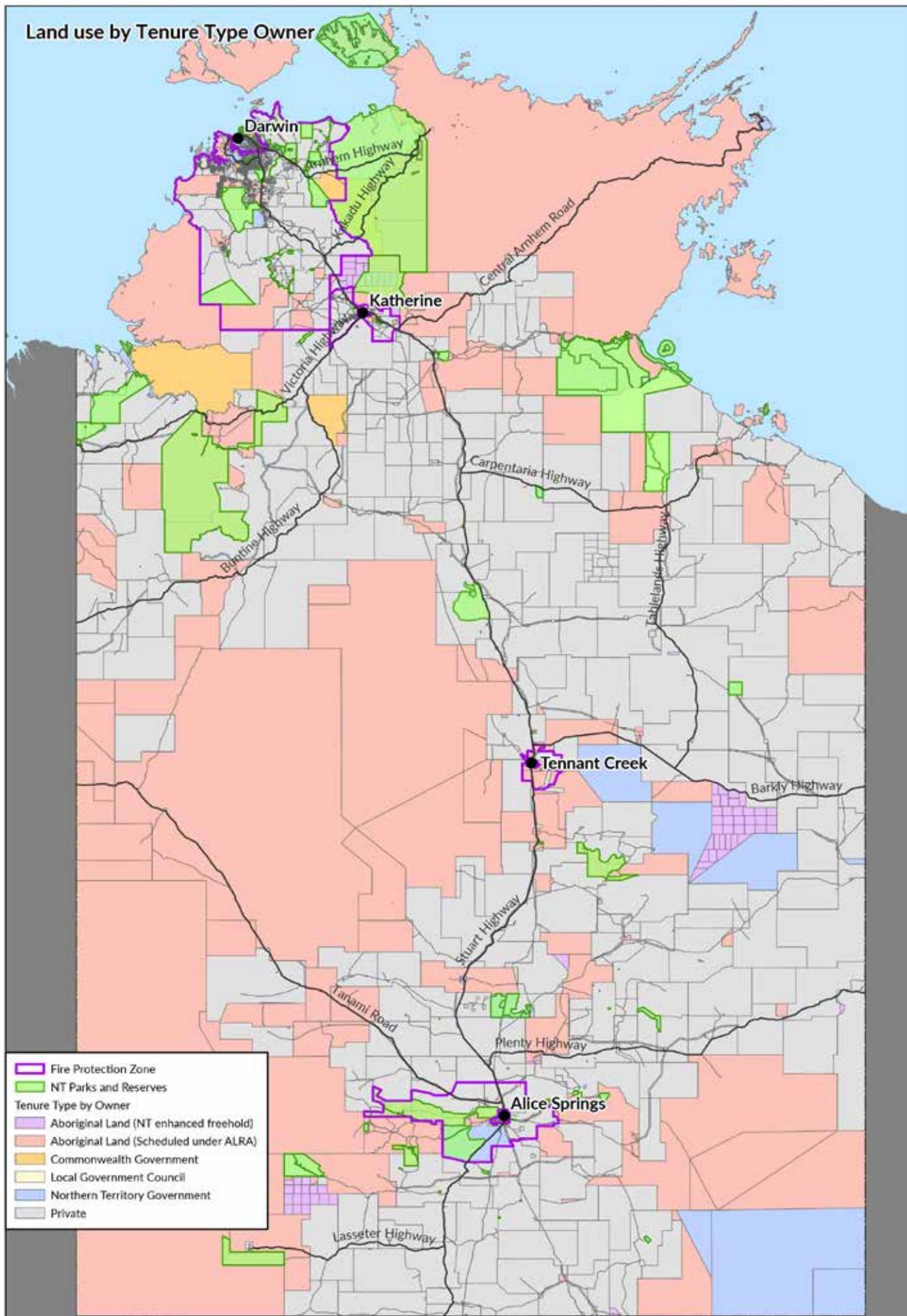
BUSHFIRE CONTEXT

Fire is a natural part of the landscape, whether originating from human activity or natural processes, to which the environment has adapted to. It is a useful and beneficial tool, that if used correctly can meet a land manager's environmental, cultural, economic and/or land management objectives. Difficulties arise when unplanned bushfires ignite and spread unintentionally or as a result of deliberate ignitions, threatening the objectives mentioned, and can pose significant risk to people, communities, infrastructure and the economy. The specific role of fire in the landscape, its timing and extent, can evoke widely differing views depending upon the user. This Plan aims to promote a coordinated and collaborative approach to align fire-use objectives.

Bushfire behaviour is shaped by three things: fuel (the vegetation that is available to burn); the topography (the 'lay of the land'); and weather. Fuel is the only modifiable factor that all land managers and fire services seek to control in a variety of ways while wise land use planning and development can affect the vulnerability of community values at risk. There are many and varied ways to treat the hazard of bushfire and its effects. This Plan outlines the NT's overarching arrangements with respect to the management of bushfire-related risk.

In this Plan, 'bushfire' does **not** include fire in the built environment otherwise known as structure fires. Though the plan does cover bushfires that threaten the built environment and associated infrastructure.

The NT represents a unique bushfire environment compared with other Australian jurisdictions. The following maps seek to illustrate land use and climate variations across the Territory.



The Northern Territory encompasses diverse climatic zones, to which there is no single 'fire season'. They consist of wet and dry coastal tropics to the dry arid zones. While there are many seasons and intricacies across regions they can be broadly described as:

Northern NT where the fire season is defined by the Dry Season, typically lasting between May to October. The hottest and driest time of this period is known as the Late Dry Season (LDS), occurring around August through to October pending rainfall and humidity towards the Wet Season (November to April).

The Central NT experiences a hot, dry summer with the fire season generally extending from September to December, though outbreaks may occur as early as August or as late as January to February.

The Southern NT fire season usual spans from October to January, with the occasional fire activity in August to September or during February to March.

Bushfire, both planned and unplanned - is an enduring feature of the NT.

Planned use of fire, sometimes coined 'good fire', can be used to:

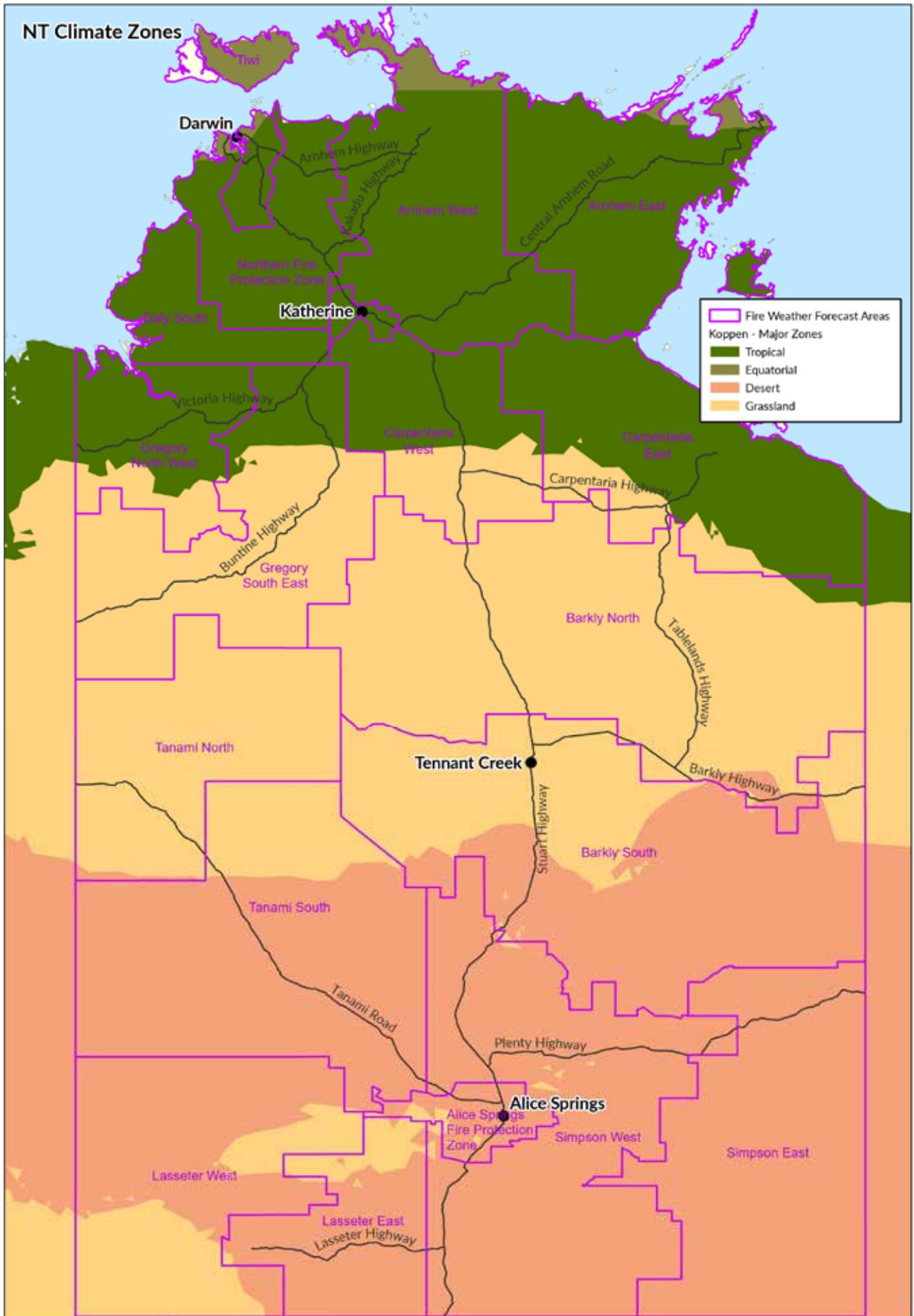
- Promote feed in rangelands.
- Reduce landscape fuel ahead of the height of the fire season.
- Remove or reduce fuel near communities, infrastructure and assets.
- Early season fire as part of carbon abatement programs.

Unplanned bushfires (wildfires), sometimes coined 'bad fire', occurs when:

- Natural processes i.e.:
 - » Lightning strikes fuel that is ready to burn,
 - » Spontaneous combustion,
- Human induced i.e.:
 - » Planned fire escaping its intended boundaries.
 - » Machinery, equipment, hot works, vehicles, power infrastructure or related activities inadvertently ignite fuel ready to burn.
 - » Cooking, campfires and fireworks escape or ignite available fuels.
 - » Someone deliberately starts a bushfire.

Comprehensive and accurate bushfire incident statistics are not yet readily available for the whole of the NT due to a degree of under reporting and the remote nature of many landscapes and landholders. Currently available statistics indicate around 4,000-5000 bushfire incidents are notified to the Joint Emergency Services Communication Centre (JESCC) each year, with a concentration of bushfires in and around settled areas and peak activity around the top end fire season (May-October).

It is anticipated that future reporting and subsequent insights will improve as FES works to improve data gathering and general awareness of reporting benefits.



GOVERNANCE

The *Emergency Management Act 2013* ('EM Act') provides the legislative framework for emergency management in the NT. It establishes a three-tier system of local, regional, and territory-wide plans, each with a corresponding council or committee to manage and implement these plans. The EM Act is overseen by the Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC), and subsidiary policy is detailed in the TEP. The TEP also provides for agency, function or hazard specific plans. This Plan is the hazard-specific plan for bushfires.

NT Fire and Emergency Services (FES) is identified in the TEP as the 'responsible agency' for this hazard-specific plan. Within the TEP, the Controlling Authority (CA) and Hazard Management Authority for the hazard of fire (within Gazetted Area) is identified as NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS). While not described in the TEP, the Gazetted Area refers to Emergency Response Areas (ERA). Bushfires NT (BFNT) is the Controlling and Hazard Management Authority for the hazard of Bushfire (within Fire Protection and Fire Management Zones, outside ERAs).

The Commissioner, NT FES is the Chief Executive of the department that encompasses BFNT, NTFRS and NT Emergency Services (NTES).

Bushfire-specific legalisation is confined to two statutes the *Fire and Emergency Act 1996* ('FE Act') and the *Bushfires Management Act 2016* ('BM Act'). The former establishes the NTFRS and the service areas known as ERAs, while the latter establishes BFNT and its areas of operation, essentially outside ERAs.

All land managers have a responsibility to manage the risk of bushfire, either explicitly in BFNT areas through s90 and s91 of the BM Act, or in ERAs under s33 and s34 of the FE Act; as well as a matter of sound land management to meet environmental, cultural or primary production objectives. Many land managers have fire suppression equipment and expertise that can be applied to bushfire management. In particular, the *Aboriginal Lands Rights Act 1976* ('ALRA') establishes traditional ownership and governance over very large areas of the NT, many of which have sophisticated fire management schemes in operation.

The BM Act is the most relevant to this Plan due to its vast geographic coverage, though the FE Act encompasses most NT population centres. An important feature of the BM Act is the committee structure, the delineation of zones and areas, and associated plans.

At the highest level, supported by FES, is the Bushfires Council (BFC), a statutory advisory committee comprised of members appointed by the Minister. The council advises the Minister on "...measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires...". The BFC has representatives from each of the Regional Bushfire Committees (RBCs).

The RBC membership includes representation from NT Government land managers, FES, Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), Defence, pastoralists, farmers and aboriginal land councils.

The framework provided in the BM Act allows the declaration of zones and areas that may be subject to more stringent fire management requirements and controls. These are determined based on risk. The NT is divided into five Fire Management Zones (FMZ) which encompass areas of similar climate, vegetation, land use, or fire regime. A Fire Management Zone provides an administrative boundary for the forming of a Regional Bushfire Committee and the development of Regional Bushfire Management Plans.



Fire Management Zones and their accompanying Regional Bushfire Management Plans are currently designed to provide regional context for bushfire management and specify the arrangements for the mitigation, management and suppression of bushfires on land within the Zone. Each plan achieves this through the identification of bushfire related risk, current and potential. Plans are endorsed by the RBCs, after which they take effect and are made public by BFNT.

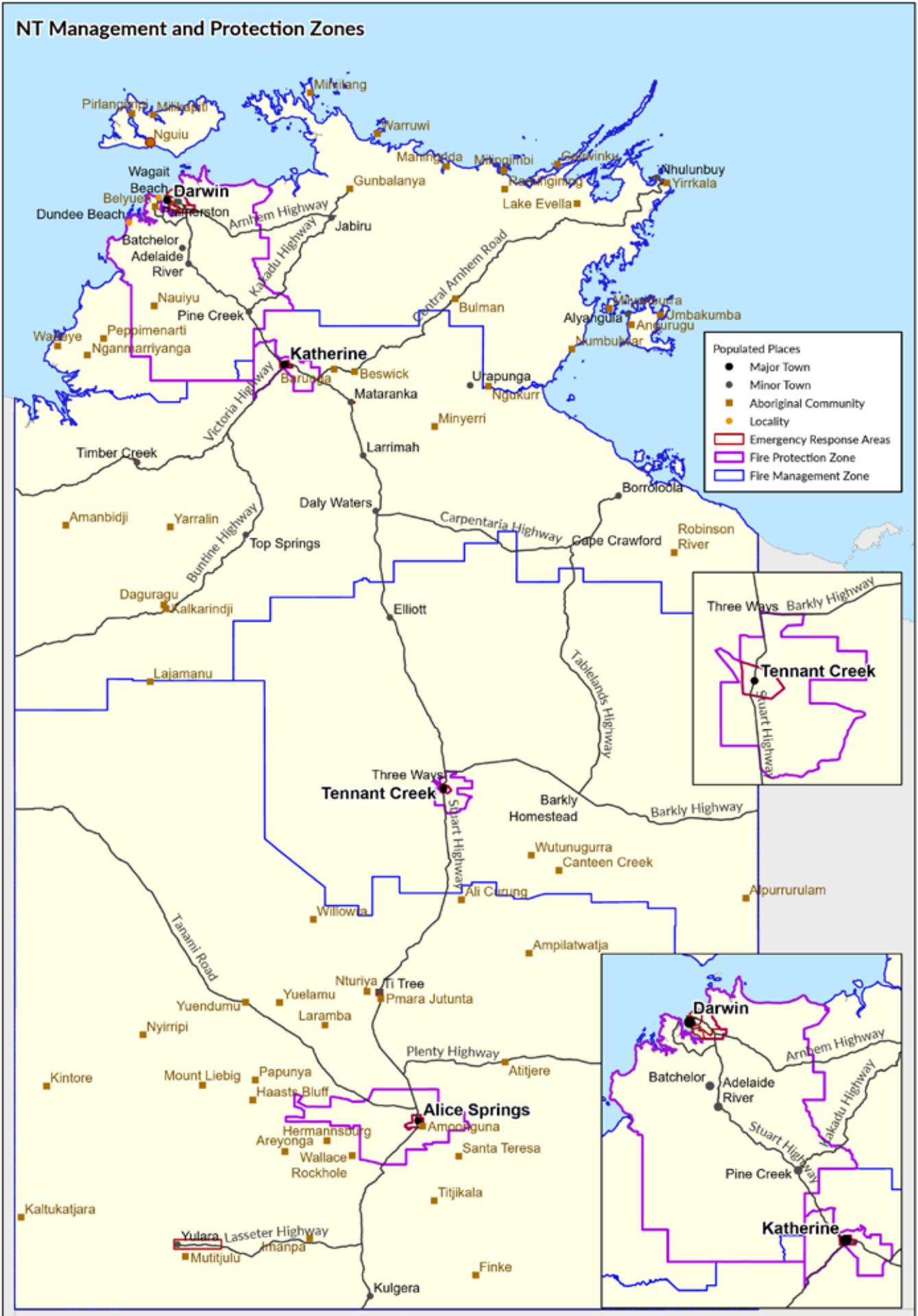
A number of other fire management areas can be declared, and these can overlay one or more Fire Management Zones:

- A Fire Protection Zone (FPZ) is declared in an area of potential heightened fire risk. FPZs are usually declared in the peri-urban to rural interface areas or areas of intensive residential, industrial, horticultural or agricultural development.
- There are four declared FPZ across the NT:
 - » Northern incorporating the outer Darwin region within the Vernon Arafura Fire Management Zone,
 - » Katherine (Savanna),
 - » Tennant Creek (Barkly) and
 - » Alice Springs.

- Additional fire regulations apply within FPZs. A Permit to Burn is required throughout the year inside a FPZ and a minimum 4 meter wide firebreak around the boundary of all properties, permanent structures, stationary engines, and flammable material is required.
- A Fire Management Area can be declared in an area where Bushfires NT have identified heightened fire risk. A Fire Management Plan can be prescribed for a Fire Management Area, and the plan can require landowner/s to take action to prepare for, or prevent, the spread of fire.
- A Fire Management Plan can additionally be prescribed for an individual property if conditions on that property present a risk to neighbouring properties or to firefighters.

The FE Act has similar fire management provisions, though simpler in form that only apply within ERAs, and regulate the use of fire and fire safety measures.

The following map illustrates the zones and areas:



The BM Act has provision for the declaration of Fire Danger Periods and Fire Bans over specified areas and periods, enacting measures that enforce increased fire safety measures such as requiring permits to burn and restrictions on the activities that may cause bushfires.

Both the FE Act and the BM Act provide the establishment of operational command structures and roles, and the establishment of career and volunteer fire services for their respective areas. In the case of FE Act, these are known as the NTFRS, volunteer fire brigades and Fire Emergency Response Groups (FERG - volunteer fire and emergency services), and in the case of BM Act, Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

The following table illustrates the overall bushfire-related governance framework across the three emergency and fire-related statutes:

Legislation	<i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i>	<i>Bushfires Management Act 2016</i>	<i>Fire and Emergency Act 1996</i>
Lead agency	FES (ES)	FES (BFNT)	FES (NTFRS)
Policy and Plans	Territory Emergency Plan Regional Emergency Plan Local Emergency Plan	Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Regional Bushfire Plan BFNT Operational Orders and Instructions	NTFRS Operational Orders and Instructions
Zones and Areas	Emergency Management Region (x2 - Nth and Sth)	Fire Management Zone (5) Fire Protection Zone (4) Fire Management Area	Emergency Response Area (21)
Governance & Advisory Committees	Territory Emergency Management Council Regional Emergency Committee (2) Local Emergency Committees (46)	Bushfires Council Regional Bushfires Committee (5)	



The following table sets out the primary responsibilities of fire, emergency and land management organisations, noting that the table is not exhaustive and only outlines the 'headline' responsibilities:

Department or land holder	Responsibilities
Fire and Emergency Services BFNT NTFRS	<p>Under one Commissioner for included agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Administer, of behalf of the Minister, the BM Act, FE Act and EM Act. – Undertake Controlling Agency and Hazard Management Agency responsibilities for bushfire across NT. – Undertake, on behalf of some NT government agencies (e.g. DLPE Crown Lands; Power and Water, DLI Transport), specified bushfire mitigation activities. – Oversee and support Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFNT); NTFRS career, auxiliary and volunteer brigades; Fire and Emergency Response Groups and NT Emergency Service Units. – Assist landholders fulfill their bushfire management responsibilities, and when required, take control of fire response. – Manage, on behalf of some NT government agencies (e.g. DLPE Crown Lands; Power and Water, DLI Transport), specified bushfire mitigation activities. – Undertake specified emergency management and related support roles to TEMC and more broadly as outlined in the EM Act and TEP.
Department of Tourism and Hospitality - Parks and Wildlife Commission	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage Territory parks and reserves in accordance with the <i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976</i> including joint management arrangements with Aboriginal Traditional Owners. – Deliver bushfire risk treatments on parks and reserves in accordance with the Parks and Wildlife Commission Fire Management Policy and Fire Management Framework, while adhering with BM Act and FE Act requirements. – Advise neighbours and NTFRS/BFNT regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity. – Coordinate with, and support, local, regional and Territory bushfire management efforts.
Department of Lands Planning and Environment	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage vacant and unallocated Crown Land in accordance with internal policy and plans, including funding bushfire mitigation activities through MOU and/or contractual arrangements (e.g. BFNT, NTFRS and private contractors), as required. – Coordinate with, and support, local, regional and Territory bushfire management efforts. – Advise neighbours, stakeholders and emergency services regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity.

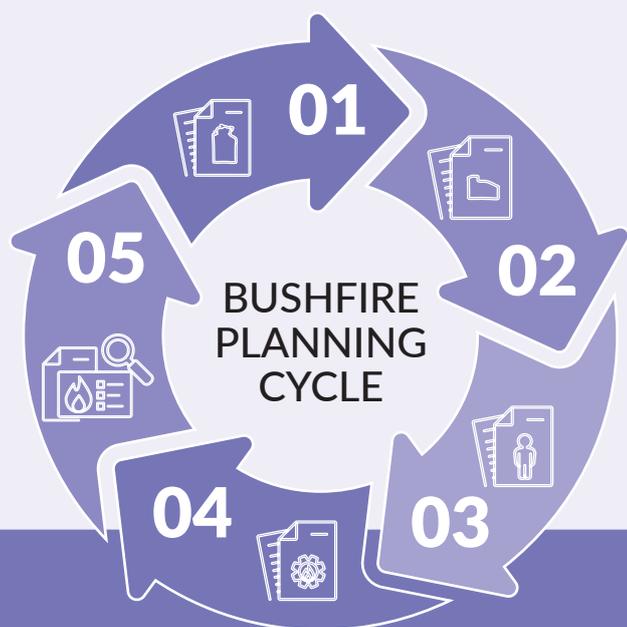
Department or land holder	Responsibilities
Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage Territory road reserves in accordance with the <i>Control of Roads Act 1953</i> and DLI Fire Management and Weed Policy, including funding bushfire mitigation activities by others through MOU and/or contractual arrangements (e.g. BFNT), as required. – Coordinate with, and support, local, regional and Territory bushfire management efforts. – Advise neighbours and NTFRS/BFNT regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity.
Local Government	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage local government land (parks, local road reserves and the like) in accordance with applicable management plans and FE Act or BM Act requirements. – Coordinate with, and support, local and regional bushfire management efforts. – Advise neighbours and NTFRS/BFNT regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity. <p>Through established community connections and civil services, support fire mitigation activities, community asset protection activities; and during response, public communications.</p>
Land Councils/Traditional Owners/ranger groups	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage land holdings in accordance with <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALR Act or 'ALRA')</i>, associated management plans and FE Act or BM Act requirements. – Advise neighbours and NTFRS/BFNT regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity. – Coordinate with, and support, local and regional bushfire management efforts through direct input and involvement.
Crown Lessees (E.G. pastoral, Crown, special purpose and mineral)	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <p>Manage land holdings in accordance with applicable lease/management plans and FE Act or BM Act requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advise neighbours and NTFRS/BFNT regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity. – Coordinate with, and support, local and regional bushfire management efforts through direct input and involvement.
Private lands – freehold	<p>Accountable for the management of bushfire-related risk on lands under their control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage land holdings in accordance with applicable management plans and FE Act or BM Act requirements. – Advise neighbours and NTFRS/BFNT regarding both planned fire and bushfire activity. – Support local bushfire management efforts through BFNT and NTFRS fire warden/brigade networks.
Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet	<p>Manage bushfire recovery arrangements under the Australian Government Territory Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the TEP.</p>

PLANNING CYCLE

In order to properly effect consistent and productive bushfire-related risk management, the following planning cycle is adopted:

- Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, reviewed by FES, BFNT and endorsed annually by Bushfires Council and TEMC prior to March.
- Annual NT-wide strategic bushfire update forum/s held prior to the fire season (usually April May in one or two central locations). This is intended to be a high-level pre-season brief to all interested stakeholders about the seasonal outlook and the latest operational arrangements.
- Regional Bushfire Management Plans, reviewed by BFNT and endorsed annually by RBCs. A comprehensive plan covering regional bushfire prevention, mitigation, response and recovery outlook and arrangements.
- Regional Emergency Plans (relevant bushfire aspects only) updated annually by BFNT/NTFRS as required. This provides a link between regional bushfire planning and emergency management arrangements, without duplicating effort.
- Local Emergency Plans (relevant bushfire aspects only) updated annually by BFNT/NTFRS as required. This provides a connection between regional and local bushfire planning and local emergency management arrangements.
- Annual landholder operational and tactical planning (Government Land, Land Councils, land holders; pastoralists, extraction etc) Fire Management Plans and/or Property Bushfire Management Plans updated. These activities and associated plans and documented outcomes are to inform regional bushfire committees and associated plans.





It is essential that a risk-based approach is utilised when considering and documenting risks and subsequent treatments and that action-oriented outcomes are documented.

The National Emergency Risk Assessment Guideline aidr.org.au/media/7600/aidr_handbookcollection_nerag_2020-02-05_v10.pdf is the accepted methodology for this purpose, while FES (BFNT and NTFRS) also provide bushfire-specific templates and guidance concerning the format and content of plans.

						 MONITOR, EVALUATE AND REPORT
 TERRITORY PLANNING	Strategic framework (Governance and objectives)	NT Scale	Territory-wide	FES Led	SBMP	Is fire being better managed to meet social, economic, environmental and cultural values?
 REGIONAL PLANNING	Develop plans and processes (What, who, when, where)	Landscape scale	Regional	FES and Regional Committees	Regional Plans	Do plans meet strategic objectives and adequately reduce regional bushfire risk?
 LANDHOLDER PLANNING	Prepare schedules and budgets (How)	Prepare schedules and budgets (How)	Land use	Landholder	Annual Program	Did mitigation activities meet objectives adequately reduce bushfire risk in priority area?
 IMPLEMENTATION (TASKS)	Implement operational tasks (Action)	On ground	Property/sub-property	Landholder, FES	e.g. Burn Plan	Was mitigation carried out safely without adverse social, economic or environmental outcomes?

REGIONAL BUSHFIRE COMMITTEES

Regional Bushfire Management Committees (RBMC), informed by deliberations of Local Emergency Committees and inputs from landholders (coordinated by BFNT); review and endorse the documented bushfire risk across the regions, and the actions required to manage them. The Regional Bushfire Management Plan, is the principal document that drives the process of ongoing assessment, treatment and review. The Regional Bushfire Management Plan is also the basis for ongoing performance assessment and provides an ongoing record of the risks, the treatments, the resultant actions and the outcomes.

Given the size of FMZs and therefore the span of RBCs, the utilisation of smaller groups or alliances among landholders is often necessary. Bringing landholders that share boundaries, similar land management objectives or face similar bushfire risk, can be a powerful means of collaboration. The NT Landholder Alliance Project has canvassed the development and propagation of this concept, and it is to be incorporated into a FES driven methodology that will be adopted across the NT as resources permit.

To assist Regional Bushfires Committees, a task checklist is provided at Appendix A.

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Prevention and mitigation comprise activities undertaken before unintended bushfires occur. It involves anticipating the circumstances where bushfire may occur and likely impact on values, such as communities, fodder, resources, environmental, structures, cultural assets and infrastructure. Australia-wide experience has shown that well designed and executed investment in prevention and mitigation has a positive return.

Through the governance arrangements such as RBCs and the proactive work of the fire and land management agencies, seasonal bushfire risk is assessed, formally documented, and used to inform deliberation at both regional committees and the Bushfires Council. Planning and intelligence input provides risk owners with the necessary information to ensure activities are targeted and risk focussed.

At the highest level, publicly available national season outlooks are issued by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC), resulting from input by FES.

Regional Bushfire Committees are a critical feature of effective bushfire risk management planning, and implementation particularly in fostering collaboration and integration. Though landowners and occupiers are directly responsible for managing their own bushfire risk, collaboration with others (especially neighbours) yields greater return for the same effort.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

FES has a range of programs designed to inform and educate members of the public on how to take action to minimise bushfire risks in both rural and urban settings. An important foundational strategy - published by BFNT in 2023 outlines broad goals in terms of bushfire management, with particular emphasis on community understanding and engagement, and can be found here: nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1287198/bfnt-community-bushfire-resilience-and-development-strategy.pdf

This Plan represents a further development of the Strategy and its expansion to include holistic bushfire risk management across all tenures, with recognised links to the TEP.

The following links provide access to information and advice concerning fire safety, arson prevention, planned burning, fire restrictions, community education and related activities by career and volunteer firefighters:

- pfes.nt.gov.au/fire-and-rescue-service/community-engagement
- pfes.nt.gov.au/fire-and-rescue-service/fire-safety/bushfire-safety
- nt.gov.au/emergency/bushfire/prepare-and-plan

Prior to fire seasons recognising that they vary considerably across the NT, BFNT and NTFRS staff and volunteers will proactively engage with landholders and locally survey fuel state and preparedness activities. Pre-season advertising, through traditional and social media, accompanies these activities. The release of national fire season outlooks coordinated by AFAC are utilised as a trigger for media engagement.

FIRE USE PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PERMITS.

Depending upon land locality, type of intended fire use and time of year, the use of fire in the open is regulated. On certain days of heightened fire weather, fire use can be further regulated or prohibited e.g. through fire bans.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) provides fire weather forecasts in line with the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) throughout the year for all parts of the Territory to assist with fire management Appendix B details the AFDRS.

Fire danger ratings can be found at <http://www.bom.gov.au/nt/forecasts/fire-danger-ratings.shtml> and a map of the fire forecast areas at Fire Weather Forecast Areas ([bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au))

- A Fire Danger Period is declared over large areas when climatic and seasonal conditions presents increased fire risk for a prolonged period of time. A Fire Danger Period usually coincides with the recognised 'fire season' in an area. Broadly this is during the Australian summer months in central Australia and during the dry season further north. A permit to burn must be sought before using fire during a Fire Danger Period in all FPZs and FMZs.
- A Fire Ban can be declared for up to 24 hours. A combination of factors are considered when declaring a fire ban period including forecast fire danger, ignition likelihood, hazards and resourcing. All permits to burn are revoked within the declared fire ban area.
- Permits to burn (issued by FES) are required all year round within FPZs and ERAs, elsewhere, during a declared FDP.

FUEL MANAGEMENT

This generally involves the construction and maintenance of fire trails, firebreaks and fuel modification through mechanical, physical and/or chemical means or planned use of fire. The construction of fire trails and breaks is a common method of providing boundary and property access and egress, dividing land into manageable portions and to comply with legislative requirements. The modification of fuel near and around assets, and across landscapes, aims to limit fire intensity and spread, particularly in proximity to communities and other values.

Bushfire hazards in ERAs and FPZs are regularly monitored by FES through operational staff and the regional committees, in addition to the BFNT seasonal firebreak compliance inspection program. BFNT and NTFRS will endeavour to provide early advice to land holders concerning emerging risks and areas of concern. Warnings, infringements and/or prosecution may result for non-compliance.

FES, through BFNT and NTFRS, have interagency agreements (e.g. MoU), supporting contractual arrangements and informal agreements to undertake fire management and mitigation works on behalf of NTG landholders such as the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) for Civil Services, the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment for Crown Land Estate and the Power and Water Cooperation.

Parks and Wildlife Commission (Parks and Wildlife), Crown Land Estate and other land holders manage risk through participation in the regional committees and through their own land management programs/activities. Parks and Wildlife develop an annual fuel management plan 'burn plan' that is circulated through bushfire committees and stakeholders. Crown Land Estate engages BFNT and private contractors to prepare burn plans for relevant Crown land parcels.

Traditional Owners, through the Land Councils and Ranger Groups in particular, actively plan and undertake extensive early season burning programs. These programs serve to meet a variety of land management objectives such as fuel reduction, environment and asset protection, and carbon abatement.

The RBMCs, and the active involvement and/or input of landholders in their deliberations, are key to a coordinated and unified effort in effective and efficient bushfire fuel management. BFNT has a lead role in coordinating fuel management input into the development of the Regional Bushfire Plan.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

Land owners or occupiers in FPZs (including ERAs) are required to construct and maintain firebreaks on their properties prior to the commencement of the Fire Danger Period. Firebreaks are defined in the Acts (BM and FE) as at least a 4 metre strip of land clear of flammable material, must be constructed and maintained around the boundary of the land, permanent structures, stationary engines and other flammable materials.

Requirements within ERAs and FPZs can be found here:

- nt.gov.au/emergency/bushfire/prepare-and-plan/firebreaks

BFNT and NTFRS undertake programmed inspections and follow-up enforcement actions to ensure compliance.

FIRE MANAGEMENT AREAS

As mentioned under Governance, BFNT may declare a Fire Management Area for which a specific plan is developed. The Executive Director of BFNT may also require a Property Fire Management Plan be prepared to address particular hazards within the area.

The use of FMAs has potential for use as a targeted and risk-based mechanism to address bushfire-related risk.

LAND USE PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS

Risks associated with bushfire must be considered early in land development and the subsequent construction of buildings, land clearing and infrastructure.

Factors considered include:

- Subdivision layout and design to ensure adequate resident egress and fire service access;
- Bushfire hazard proximity and management, including Asset Protection Zones (APZ);
- Building envelope placement with respect to surrounding hazards; and
- Water supply.

The Department of Lands Planning and the Environment (DLPE) administers land use planning (*Planning Act 1999*) and building controls (*Building Act 1993*) and may refer matters under consideration to FES, BFNT for advice and input. The consent authority may impose bushfire-related conditions on land development approvals.

FIRE INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH

Establishing the origin and cause of bushfires is an essential part of establishing trends and what risk treatments work best and therefore ought to be prioritised or established. Understanding bushfire cause, propagation and treatment productivity, balanced against the economic and environmental values at risk, is fundamental to better public policy and decision-making. Good field-based fire investigation also forms the evidential basis for prosecutions.

FES has a limited fire investigation capability, established under the FE Act, that is applied across the NT through a risk-based approach.

Reporting all fire incidents is therefore imperative to identify potential trends and prioritise research or investigative effort. Outcomes of the analysis of reports and any subsequent investigations will inform fire prevention and mitigation activities and the pursuit of illegal activities.

PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness involves setting up people, systems and facilities in anticipation of bushfire operations. Fundamental to this is forecasting the skills, logistics and support required to be applied to productive bushfire suppression, and ensuring they are in place ahead of time.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

The aim being to ensure sufficient competent individuals are available to undertake tasks expected of them when required. Territory government agencies with bushfire risk responsibilities have various recruitment, induction and development programs designed around their needs. Most fire-related positions receive basic training in bushfire response and incident management systems appropriate to their role. More enhanced incident management training is under development, and opportunities for major bushfire response exposure in other jurisdictions are pursued when appropriate. Emergency management expertise from interstate is regularly engaged in support of operations and as a means to share best practice.

The FES Commissioner has an expectation that incident management capability will be developed across FES, especially to build expertise in large and complex fire scenarios. This capability building will also incorporate the diverse incident management team and support roles that NTG agencies, particularly land management agencies, can supply in times of need. The FES Commissioner will regularly report the status of this endeavour at TEMC.

All landholders are expected to equip their employees and volunteers with the competencies necessary to undertake the roles and tasks expected of them. This includes all landholders, whether leasehold, freehold or under another management arrangements. Given landholders are required to manage fire on their land, this may range from basic fire awareness, through to incident management roles. FES can provide guidance regarding appropriate competencies and courses.



PRE-PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES, SERVICES AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FACILITIES.



Staffing

BFNT bolster staffing during the bushfire season to undertake planning, inspections, mitigation works, aerial observation and pre-deployment of operational staff. FES NTFRS and BFNT general orders and instructions, aligned with seasonal and daily forecasts of bushfire weather, articulate the various staffing profiles required to meet anticipated response demand. This may include staff rostering and on-call arrangements. Parks and Wildlife staff may also be pre-deployed or placed on standby as seasonal or fire weather circumstances dictate. The pre-season bushfire briefings led by FES will convey specific arrangements for each season.



Aircraft

Through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) and NT government contractual arrangements, leased fixed wing and rotary aircraft are procured to meet the assessed NT needs for water bombing, observation and supervision. All arrangements are locally managed through the FES (BFNT) Territory Air Desk and rostered personnel when the aerial assets are on standby or in use. Internal General Orders/ Standard Operating Procedures (BFNT) and Instructions (NTFRS) detail the seasonal arrangements and deployment triggers.



Machinery

Earthmoving machines and transport are critical to effective bushfire fighting in the NT. FES, through BFNT, has access to contracted providers in some locations, as does the Parks and Wildlife Commission, Crown Land Estate and DLI.

A detailed schedule of machinery type, logistics support, availability and cost will be maintained by FES and made available to incident management teams.

Regional and Local Emergency Plans may also detail specific arrangements for their respective regions or locales, informed by participating stakeholders.



Facilities

Facilities for locating IMTs, staging/logistics and communications are being progressively identified and are broadly canvassed in the TEP and applicable Regional and Local Emergency Plans. The pre-season bushfire briefings led by FES will convey specific arrangements for each season.

TESTING AND EXERCISING PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS.

The aim being to ensure familiarity with plans and ease of use when required. The response aspects of this Plan may be tested by means of an annual NT-wide bushfire exercise. Seasonal bushfire arrangements will be conveyed to emergency services and land management agencies through regional bushfire briefing sessions led by FES staff.

PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE.

Inputs to operational staff to ensure emerging bushfire risks are well anticipated. A weekly preparedness briefing, involving the leaders of all fire and land management agencies with response capability or input, may be held at the discretion of the Commissioner FES.

Appendix C outlines the annual seasonal bushfire preparedness rhythm, including standard items for consideration at pre-season and weekly briefings.



RESPONSE

Response involves deploying resources and staff in response to operational firefighting needs.

TIMELY PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE.

Comprised of inputs to incident management to ensure operations are as productive as possible. Undertaken on a routine basis by the Bushfires Control Centre though may be undertaken by an IMT if established.

Sourced data and analysis should canvass at a minimum:

- current and forecast fire weather,
- potential bushfire behaviour,
- values at risk,
- current resource capability and disposition, and
- resource gaps and constraints,
- when in place, incident controller(s) aims and objectives and potential needs.

The Intelligence gleaned by canvassing the above points should inform actions taken by incident management personnel, mindful of needing to be tailored to meet the needs of the recipient.

Appendix C outlines a planning and briefing rhythm adopted by the key fire agencies. The pre-season and weekly briefings are critical to adequate preparedness. A suggested agenda is also included.

SCALED, INTEGRATED AND DYNAMIC DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND STAFF.

A system based on risk-based decisions and whole-of-NT requirements, including acquiring and pre-positioning resources and staff in accordance with anticipated fire weather.

Both BFNT and NTFRS have internal General Orders and Instructions that detail their arrangements. With the creation of FES, it is planned to integrate arrangements to maximise resource utilisation and efficiencies.

The briefing rhythm outlined at Appendix C is the first step towards a more integrated and unified approach to dynamic and integrated resourcing across all agencies, with clear mutual situation awareness being a central tenet.

COMMAND, CONTROL AND COORDINATION PRINCIPLES

As mandated in TEP, the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) is the adopted incident management system. The following principles apply to the bushfire response.

- FES and other agencies always retain command of their own resources through internal chain-of-command, supported by internal doctrine.
- All bushfires will have the one Incident Controller and one Incident Action Plan at any one time, supported by an IMT (if required) comprised of the most competent and available personnel.
- Incident Controllers are either appointed automatically due to seniority and bushfire location (e.g. a Fire Warden or Bushfire Brigade Captain outside ERA, Station Officer inside ERA, or Parks Ranger in Parks), or appointed by the FES Commissioner or their delegate, in the case of bushfires that reach Level 2 or 3 triggers.
- FES will provide for the coordination of resources to and across IMTs, and ensure that logistics, planning and public information support is provided to the IMTs, while communicating incident status to internal and external stakeholders such as TEMC, the Minister and industry groups.
- ICs will control a fire fighting effort in a defined area and keep FES informed, through their chain-of-command, regarding progress against the Incident Action Plan.
- The Bushfire Control Centre will coordinate bushfire management across the Territory and support ICs and IMTs where established.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Bushfire response is in accordance with the TEP, this Plan and internal NTFRS and BFNT operational doctrine (orders, guidelines and procedures) in keeping with the following priorities:

- protection and preservation of life: this is the fundamental overarching priority for the Territory, and includes:
 - » safety of emergency services personnel
 - » safety of community members including at risk community members and visitors/tourists located within the incident area
- community warnings and information
- protection of critical infrastructure and community assets
- protection of residential property
- protection of assets supporting individual livelihood and community financial sustainability
- protection of environmental, cultural and heritage values.

The above priorities are not hierarchical; however, protection and preservation of life must be paramount when developing incident action plans that identify the priority roles and actions for the emergency management response, where there are concurrent risks or competing priorities.

INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

Incident reports and associated activity is entered into the Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre (JESCC) Computer Aided Despatch system by 000 operators and details passed onto the relevant agency, NTFRS inside ERA and BFNT outside ERAs. FES BFNT record fire reports through Bushfires Emergency Management System (BEMS) and Fire Mapper.

Bushfires can be notified by BFNT/NTFRS staff on patrol, Fire Wardens, BFB/NTFRS volunteers, by landholders themselves and travellers. 000 and the JESCC is the primary method for all such reports.

In addition, Northern Australia & Rangelands Fire Information (NAFI) is a satellite informed and web-based system that provides for the early identification and tracking of remote bushfires. It is extensively utilised by FES-BFNT and landholders and is available here: firenorth.org.au/nafi3/

INCIDENT LEVELS

Bushfires are classified in accordance with the level of response required, as follows:

Incident Level	Hazard extent, response and actions
1	<p>Incident: A localised bushfire that can readily be managed by a local brigade/station or land holder. May require multi-brigade or outside assistance, though usually resolved within a day or two. Includes remote area bushfires that do not require response, other than remote sensing (satellite) or aerial monitoring.</p> <p>Incident Control: The IC will be the most senior and competent person on site e.g. Captain / Station Officer/ land manager. IMT functions usually undertaken by the IC alone, though IC may appoint additional IMT personnel as the situation requires. Should the bushfire span, or likely span, both ERA and BFNT areas, the Commissioner FES (or delegate) will appoint an IC, on advice of NTFRS and BFNT. Incident location and status recorded in JESCC, BEMS and FireMapper.</p> <p>Incident Coordination and Support: Through JESCC or Bushfire Control Centre (BCC - Acacia Hills). NOTE: Multiple L1 bushfires may require BCC support.</p>
2	<p>Incident: A bushfire that exceeds the capabilities of local brigade/landholder resources, extends for more than 24 hours and / or seriously threatens lives and/or assets. Requires FES action and resource commitment and capabilities drawn from outside the local area.</p> <p>Incident Control: IMT comprising IC, Operations Officer and Sector Commanders established as a minimum and located in suitable mobile or fixed Incident Control Centre (ICC). Logistics, planning and communications support provided by JESCC or Bushfire Control Centre . IC appointment based on bushfire location and competence of available personnel, as agreed by Commissioner FES or their delegate. Incident Coordination and Support: Through JESCC with enhanced staffing by FES NTFRS and BFNT, or Bushfire Ops Centre, with enhanced FES NTFRS staffing. NOTE: Multiple L2 or 1 bushfires will require BCC support.</p>
3 and above.	<p>Incident: A major bushfire, or bushfires, that seriously threaten(s) people, assets and environment requiring significant and prolonged commitment from FES, multiple landholders and government. Commissioner FES appoints IC or may require the declaration of an emergency situation in accordance with TEP. Trigger for emergency situation based on FES Commissioner requiring powers not available through the use of FE Act or BM Act. DRFA eligibility is independent of emergency situation declaration.</p> <p>Incident Control: IMT(s) established at suitable facility as close to operations as practicable. Extent and size of IMT and support determined by FES Commissioner or delegate, in consultation with IC(s). FES Commissioner to brief Chief Minister and TEMC. If incident declared Emergency Situation arrangements will be invoked requiring confirmation of IC(s) by TEC.</p> <p>Incident Coordination and Support: Through TEP. Interstate and/or Australian Government support likely.</p>

The following diagram summarises the overall communications, command, control and coordination arrangements.

Incident Level	Communications	Command and Control	Coordination
1	NTFRS reporting and dispatch: 000-JESCC. BFNT - notifications to 000-FEC+SCC and dispatch through BCC,	NTFRS: IC is Station Officer. BFNT: IC is Most Senior Volunteer or Fire Control Officer or Landholder on-scene .	NTFRS: FECSS. BFNT: BCC. NOTE: Multiple L1s may require BCC oversight.
2	JECSS and BCC with NTFRS Liaison Officer (LO)	IC is DO or FCO appointed by FES Commissioner delegation. IMT established at ICC.	BCC with NTFRS LO. NOTE: Multiple L1 and/or L2s will require BCC.
3 and above.	JESCC and BCC with TFRS LO. L3 IMT-BCC link in place. TEC/TEMC briefed.	IC appointed by FES Commissioner. Full IMT at ICC.	BCC with Landholder LOs.
Emergency Situation	L3 IMT-BCC-TEMC link in place.	IC appointed by TEC on FES Commissioner recommendation.	Support through TEC direction and TEP arrangements.

BCC - Bushfire Control Centre located at Acacia Hills that supports ICs and IMTs - parts may relocate to another FES facility such as Alice Springs.

ICC - Incident Control Centre, a mobile or fixed facility for IMT as close to the incident as practical.

TEC - Territory Emergency Controller and chairs the Territory Emergency Management Council.

JESCC - Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre.

JOINT AND STRATEGIC OPERATIONS

The Bushfire Control Centre (BCC) is critical to effective coordination and communications in support of the above arrangements. In all cases, the JESCC will undertake the role of 000 call taking, with despatch arrangements being elevated during joint operations to ensure resources are effectively utilised to maximum effect across all services. The BCC will also play a key role for joint operations and the sole coordination role for multiple level 2 incidents and level 3 incidents, and at the discretion of FES Commissioner (or delegate) Level 2 incidents.

It should be noted that the Bushfire Control Centre provides whole-of-NT bushfire coordination and support to ICs/IMTs, the important change to past practice being that Incident Controllers only exist when required for an incident or a complex of incidents, supported by the JESCC or Bushfires Operations Centre in accordance with incident levels described earlier. Competing resource priorities and briefings to the Minister and/or Territory Controller will always however be undertaken by senior FES staff, based on advice from the Bushfire Control Centre.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

FES will distribute advice and warnings to the public for fire that are aligned to the Australian Warning System (AWS) using the national bushfire hazards icons for all bushfires. The AWS uses a consistent set of icons and community safety messaging, across Australia. Warnings provide point-in-time information about the hazard that is impacting or expected to impact communities.

There are three warning levels:



ADVICE

A fire has started.

There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



WATCH AND ACT

There is a heightened level of threat.

Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



WARNING

The highest level of bushfire alert.

You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Warnings can be tailored with any further detail to build the communities understanding about the situation. Customised information may include actions the fire agencies are taking to manage the fire and safety advice.

Warning messages are available on the Northern Territory Fire Incident Map, Secure NT and uploaded to social media accounts across FES BFNT and NTFRS, extending to traditional media outlets when required. Emergency Alerts to specific areas can be authorised as outlined in the TEP. Roadside variable message signs, designed to Australian Standards and operated by DLI, are available across main centres in the Territory (greater Darwin, Kakadu, Pine Creek, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.) Parks and Wildlife Commission will also alert park visitors as required through their social media pages, website and traditional media outlets.

The protocols for public information and warnings, including the activation of a NTG Public Information Group, are included in FES internal general orders and instructions, aligned to the TEP. Pre-season briefings will include updates concerning the application of the protocols.

COST ACCOUNTING

IMTs will ensure costs incurred in suppressing bushfires are tracked and summarised at the incident's conclusion. Early inclusion of finance and procurement personnel in Level 2 and 3 bushfires is highly recommended.

ICs should bear in mind that there may be scope to activate larger incidents under the Territory Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), should applicable thresholds be met. Appropriate accounting structures and record keeping in this context is therefore critical.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The declaration of an Emergency Situation in accordance with the TEP will be on the recommendation of the FES Commissioner through TEMC to the Minister. The declaration of an Emergency Situation is independent of, though may coincide with, a DRFA-eligible event.

INTERSTATE AND COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE

In some circumstance, especially during multiple and/or large bushfires (Level 2 or 3 bushfires), or those declared and emergency situation where Territory resources are stretched. Resources from interstate or from the Australian Government may be required. Interstate assistance is approved by the FES Commissioner and coordinated through AFAC's National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC), while Australian Government requests are in accordance with arrangements outlined in the TEP.

RECOVERY

Recovery involves returning an affected community to as close to its pre-impact status as possible. Recovery should commence as soon as possible and well before response ends, so that a smooth transition for the affected community can occur.

Recovery is effectively achieved by applying the principles and policy of the DRFA.

Section 5 of the TEP outlines the recovery governance arrangements applicable to the NT and can be found here:

- pfes.nt.gov.au/sites/default/files/uploads/files/2024/1.%20Territory%20Emergency%20Plan.pdf

Early impact assessment, along with effective accounting and record keeping concerning operational costs, are critical for supporting recovery efforts and accessing applicable DRFA reimbursements.

Impact statements for L2 and L3 incidents, completed by the IC before standdown - are mandatory.

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APPENDIX A

REGIONAL BUSHFIRE COMMITTEE, BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

The following are intended as guidance for Regional Bushfire Committees in consideration of approving the Regional Bushfire Management Plan. An appropriate method of understanding the risk and developing prioritised treatments is contained in the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) and guidelines available through FES. The Landholder Alliance Guideline should also be used for landholder engagement, while the TEP provides guidance concerning debriefs and reviews. FES BFNT and NTFRS will provide guidance and support to the RBC's deliberations and ensure the RBP conforms to internal standards.

- Is everyone that owns bushfire risk adequately represented? If not, how do we get their input?
- Do we have good access (maps/overlays/experts) to inform seasonal outlooks and the current and probable fuel state?
- What do we value most? What's important to us? What 'keeps us up at night'?
- What are landholders planning to do about their bushfire fuels (firebreaks, hand burns, aerial burns, mechanical works) and the protection of their values (buildings, infrastructure, feed, animals, cultural, heritage, environment)?
- How can we better access key risk areas?
- How do we collaborate across boundaries to maximise effort for risk reduction?
- What should we tell the BFC about our bushfire risks and preparations?

Other issues for discussion should include:

- Meeting schedule, member engagement and region-wide landholder engagement /landholder alliances
- Staff and volunteer readiness, number, location, training
- Equipment capability, readiness, availability, location and procurement
- Communications, FES - BFNT and NTFRS, Landholder networks (VHF, UHF CB), satellite, HF, mobile
- IMT personnel, skills, knowledge, contacts, availability
- IMT and logistics locations, office facilities, staging areas, airfields, water supply
- Post fire reviews ('After Action Review'), capture of learnings and effect on future plans

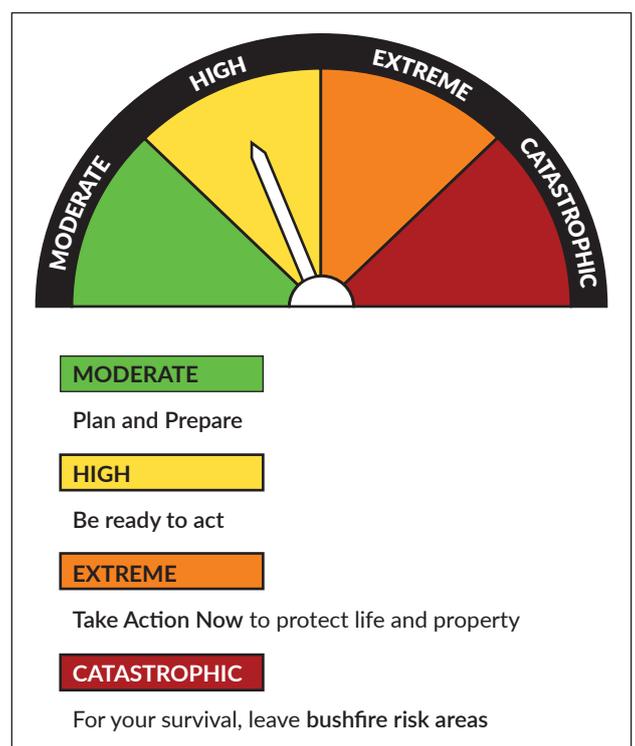
APPENDIX B

AUSTRALIAN FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM

Nationally, fire and land management agencies utilise the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). The AFDRS aims to improve scientific accuracy behind fire danger forecasting, improve the way in which fire danger is communicated, provides government and industry with better decision-making tools and reduce the cost associated with bushfire impacts.

The AFDRS provides information that is simple and consistent using four public rating categories and a numerical fire behaviour index that applies to all fuels across the entire country. These simple products are built on considerable complexity in the underlying fire behaviour models, aiming to use accurate predictions based on a detailed understanding of fire spread and fuel structure. The AFDRS uses the latest scientific understanding about weather, fuel and how fire behaves in different types of vegetation to improve the reliability of fire danger forecasts. This strengthens the ability of those working in emergency services to be better prepared, make improved decisions and provide better advice to the community.

In the NT, two main fire behaviour models have replaced the Grass Fire Danger Index (GFDI) - the savanna grassland model, and the spinifex model. Information regarding fuel loading, curing and condition are taken from field observations and submitted to the BOM in order to calculate the fire danger rating. The AFDRS levels are: No rating, Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.



APPENDIX C

PLANNING AND BRIEFING

The following table details the planning and briefing rhythm adopted inclusive of an all-agencies approach, noting that timings may vary due to seasonal conditions across the Territory:

Committee/plan/agency	Jan-Feb-Mar	Apr-May-Jun	Jul-Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov-Dec
TEMC / TEP / BFC	FES Commissioner updates as required. Approve updated SBMP.	FES Commissioner updates as required.	FES Commissioner updates as required.	FES Commissioner updates as required.
FES / SBMP	Review and update SBMP and seek TEMC approval.	Approve RBPs and track implementation.	Track RBP implementation.	Finalise consolidated RBP outcomes report to Minister.
RBC / RBP	Meet to consider season and RBC checklist. Input to draft RBP.	Finalise RBP and seek BFC approval. Assist BFNT/NTFRS to coordinate fuel management actions. Report RBC actions to BFC.	Track RBP actions and report to BFC.	Meet and undertake post-season debrief. Report outcomes of RBP actions and post season debrief to BFC.
REP and LEP	BFNT and NTFRS staff update bushfire components.	BFNT and NTFRS staff update bushfire components.	BFNT and NTFRS staff update bushfire components.	BFNT and NTFRS staff update bushfire components.
FES-BFNT, NTFRS and NEMA	Coordinate and support activities of BFC and RBCs.	Update and promulgate general orders and instructions. Host annual territory strategic bushfire update forum.# Undertake FPZ inspections. Track season development and declare fire danger period. Undertake weekly bushfire preparedness and readiness briefing, see below.	Undertake weekly bushfire preparedness and readiness briefing.	Undertake weekly bushfire preparedness and readiness briefing.

A joint annual pre-season forum hosted by FES and NEMA.

Weekly Bushfire Preparedness Briefing.

Purpose: To provide key operational fire staff with awareness of likely bushfire weather, operational capability and readiness, current bushfire status and commitments, and any foreseeable opportunities and risks.

Attendees: FES NTES, BFNT, NTFRS; Parks and Wildlife, other Landholders or emergency managers on invitation as required. Briefing is for operational staff (limited to on-duty and essential) and is not to deal with day-to-day administration.

Timing: Limited to one hour.

AGENDA

1. Fire weather briefing by BOM
2. Current incidents and resource commitments, by FMZ/ERA
3. Outlook for incidents and resource needs, by FMZ/ERA
4. Risks or issues: actual or potential: what might impede progress or objectives? What opportunities are there? Are there any political, environmental, social, technology, legal or economic issues we need to be aware of?

APPENDIX D

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

Acronym / Term	Full form
AFDRS	Australian Fire Danger Rating System
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
ALRA	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>
AWS	Australian Warning System
BEMS	Bushfires Emergency Management System
BFNT	Bushfires NT
BM Act	<i>Bushfires Management Act 2016</i>
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BCC	Bushfire Control Centre
Bushfire	An unintended fire in vegetation or landscape, also 'Wildfire'
CFO	Chief Fire Officer (NTFRS)
CFCO	Chief Fire Control Officer (Bushfires NT)
DFCO	Deputy Chief Fire Officer (NTFRS)
DLPE	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
DIPL	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
DTH (PWC)	Department of Tourism and Hospitality (Parks & Wildlife Commission)
ED	Executive Director
EM Act	<i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i>
ERA	Emergency Response Area
FBI	Fire Behaviour Index
FCO	Fire Control Officer (Bushfires NT)
FDR	Fire Danger Rating
FERG	Fire and Emergency Response Group established under FE Act
FE Act	<i>Fire and Emergency Act 1996</i>
FES	Fire and Emergency Services (department of)

Acronym / Term	Full form
FES Commissioner	The CEO of FES
FES BFNT	Bushfires NT – a division of FES
FES NTFRS	NT Fire and Rescue Service – a division of FES
FMZ	Fire Management Zone
FPZ	Fire Protection Zone
GFDI	Grass Fire Danger Index
HMA	Hazard Management Authority
IC	Incident Controller
ICC	Incident Control Centre
IMT	Incident Management Team
JESCC	Joint Emergency Services Communication Centre
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAFC	National Aerial Firefighting Centre
NRSC	National Resource Sharing Centre
NT	Northern Territory
NTFRS	Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service – a division of FES
NTES	Northern Territory Emergency Services – a division of FES
NTG	Northern Territory Government
SO	Station Officer (NTFRS)
SBMP or 'the Plan'	Strategic Bushfire Management Plan
RBC	Regional Bushfires Committee
TAD	Territory Air Desk
TEMC	Territory Emergency Management Council
TEP	Territory Emergency Plan



**NT FIRE &
EMERGENCY
SERVICES**



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT**

STRATEGIC BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

nt.gov.au/emergency/bushfire