

BMAP 2.0

The next generation of Bushfire Management Area Plans (BMAPs)

Update – June 2022



Background

The [State Bushfire Management Plan 2021-2025](#) includes key actions to develop the next generation of Bushfire Management Area Plans (BMAPs). This includes a major review of existing guidelines and practices supporting the development, maintenance, implementation and reporting of these plans.

Key objectives of this review process are to integrate the planning process, ensure that it encompasses all classes of assets, and fulfils the full cycle of risk management, including reporting and assurance.

To support the implementation of these actions a number of different activities are taking place.

There are two stages in this process:

1. Maintaining existing systems while we develop the new system
2. Managing the transition from the current BMAPs and systems into the new system

Maintaining existing systems is not as straight-froward as it may seem, as there are still tasks we need to progress while we are 'holding' the current system in play. These tasks include:

- **Annual reporting** to the Minister and State Parliament, including on the implementation of BMAPs – within the current system the only way this reporting can be undertaken is through manual manipulation of excel spreadsheets
- Forward planning for **implementation of BMAP activities** in the interim
- Making **amendments to BMAPs** to reflect changes in the external operating environment.

More information is provided below on the management of each of these tasks.

There is also a challenge in maintaining the existing software supporting the BMAPs, as it has become quite unstable due to its age and the technology upon which it was built. It is likely that South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) will need to 'freeze' the online mapping and focus on maintaining and publishing the risk register to support the currency of the BMAPs in this interim period until the new system is up and ready to go.



Maintaining existing systems

Annual Reporting

The SACFS Bushfire Management Planning Unit has prepared information to support all agencies to complete the annual reporting requirements for 2021-2022.

As was the case in 2020-2021, reporting on implementation of BMAPs will need to be undertaken through a manual process using Excel spreadsheets based on the BMAP risk registers. This manual data collation process is onerous; and also provides only a rudimentary level of information. However, until the new system is in place, it is the best and only option available to collate this information.

All SBCC member, and several non-member, agencies are being asked to contribute annual reporting information on their bushfire risk reduction activities for presentation in the annual report.

It is not widely understood that the information collated for the 2020-2021 annual report on the implementation of BMAPs was the first time any data had been collected and presented on the implementation of the activities contained in the plans since their development.

Risk Reduction Planning

At its November 2021 meeting, the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) endorsed a different approach to the conduct of Bushfire Management Committee (BMC) meetings, with the intention that BMCs re-focus on engaging with the implementation of BMAPs.

Included in these changes is a workshop to be held over winter to enable agencies to come together and discuss priority activities for implementation based upon the BMAPs. This will provide an interim process to support their ongoing review and implementation while the policy and system changes required to support the next generation (BMAP 2.0) are being developed.

BMC members with risk reduction activities assigned to them in BMAPs for assets at Very High and Extreme risk from bushfire will be asked to review the activities and identify their priorities for implementation in the coming 12 months (2022-2023 financial year).

Agencies also have the opportunity to review risk ratings in BMAPs for assets under their management or ownership and raise any priority matters for review, including additions, to reflect changes in the environment (including economic, environmental and social changes).

Each BMC will have a workshop in July to discuss the risk reduction activities they have identified as priorities for the coming year, and consider opportunities to coordinate activities across the landscape.

Once agencies have committed to the activities they will deliver, and they have been endorsed by the contributing agencies, the relevant BMC and the SBCC, these risk reduction plans will be published on the

SBCC and BMC website. These plans will form the basis for reporting on the delivery of BMAP activities for the 22-23 FY.

Amendment of BMAPs

To provide a transparent process for amendment of BMAPs during this period while the new handbook and system are developed, the SBCC has endorsed an [updated amendments governance process](#) aligned with the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (SA).



Developing the new system and Handbook

Redevelopment of supporting software system for BMAPs

The existing Bushfire Risk Information Management System (BRIMS) is a desktop application built nearly 10 years ago using open-source development code and freeware, some of which is now obsolete, to support the development of BMAPs. BRIMS provides a bushfire risk assessment of assets across the State, visualised in an online map, and allocation of risk treatments to manage the risk. However, there is no existing capability to report on delivery of bushfire risk reduction activities.

CFS has received grant funding of \$165,000 over 2 financial years, commencing from 2021-22 and currently concluding in mid 2023, from the South Australian National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) Grants Program. This will be utilised to redevelop the existing BRIMS into an online application, upgrade the risk assessment framework, and include risk reduction treatment reporting capability.

The existing system will be redeveloped into a cloud-based online platform that will incorporate the full cycle of bushfire risk management, including reporting capability. As well as integrating best available data and bushfire risk modelling, the new system is proposed to support the direct entry of reporting information on bushfire risk reduction activities by agencies responsible for their delivery, including local and state government agencies, non-government organisations and other stakeholders. This will be a significant change from the current approach, where all data management associated with BRIMS has been undertaken by SACFS staff.

The new system will retain a public interface, as well as incorporating a secured platform to manage sensitive data. It will seek to incorporate best available data and modelling from concurrent State and National projects, including Situation Awareness for Emergencies (SAFE) and the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). To support future improvements to the system, it will be developed using a modular approach.

Project Governance

SACFS is working closely with SA Government agencies involved in hosting and managing relevant data and systems, including the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Office for Data Analytics and the Office

of the Chief Information Officer), Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Department for Environment and Water, and the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission in undertaking this project.

A Project Steering Committee and Technical Working Group have been established, and an end-user scoping survey has been circulated to stakeholders. A User Acceptance Testing group will be put in place to test different elements of the system before it is operationalised.

A Request for Information was issued to the market on 6 May, and closes on 6 June 2022, to identify options available to meet the needs of a new 'bushfire management planning and reporting system'. This process is seeking to identify whether it will be necessary to develop a custom built system, or whether there are off-the-shelf options available.

SACFS is also seeking funds from Government to support the rollout of the new system to stakeholders, with a dedicated training officer.

Review of BMAP Handbook and associated guidelines and policies

Scoping for the review of the Handbook and associated guidelines and policies has commenced. Progress with this process will be provided through these updates as it occurs. However, it is noted that the new software solution will to some extent drive the structure and content of the Handbook, so at this point the focus of work is upon managing interim planning and reporting processes.