

Schedule A

PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO JANUARY 2016 WAROONA FIRE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Preamble

The January 2016 Waroona Fire has caused significant damage, particularly to the town of Yarloop, and the tragic loss of life. The Government of Western Australia is committed to managing bushfire-related risk and continuously improving the State's capabilities to prevent, mitigate and respond to major bushfires to protect the Western Australian community and the assets it values.

For this purpose, the Government has committed to the establishment of an open and independent review of the management of the fire, with broad terms of reference that will allow for consideration of what has been learned from previous major bushfires, what can be learned from the Waroona Fire, and strategies for future reforms and capability enhancements to efficiently and effectively manage bushfire-related risk.

Terms of Reference

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

1. The response to the January 2016 Waroona Fire

- (a) The effectiveness of pre-incident bushfire prevention and mitigation activities;
- (b) The effectiveness of emergency management plans and procedures;
- (c) The effectiveness of the suppression strategies and tactics used during the fire;
- (d) The effectiveness of incident management, including coordination of agencies, volunteer fire and emergency services and interstate assistance;
- (e) Protection of essential services infrastructure and access to essential services (power, transport, water, communications) by emergency services organisations and the community;
- (f) The effectiveness of public messaging including the adequacy and timeliness of emergency warnings issued to residents and visitors;
- (g) Effectiveness of assistance to and management of those affected by the fire:
 - (i) Evacuation procedures
 - (ii) Communications with the community over the course of the fire
 - (iii) Provision of welfare support
 - (iv) Management of people seeking to return to their properties, and
- (h) Livestock and companion animal management and welfare issues.

2. Lessons learned from previous bushfire emergencies

- (a) The extent to which the findings and recommendations of the following Western Australian bushfire reviews undertaken since 2011 have been implemented:

- (i) A Shared Responsibility – Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review (Keelty, 2011);
 - (ii) Appreciating the Risk – Report of the Special Inquiry into the November 2011 Margaret River Bushfire (Keelty, 2012);
 - (iii) Post-Incident Analysis of the 2011 Margaret River and Nannup bushfires (Noetic Solutions, 2012);
 - (iv) Parkerville Stoneville Mt Helena Bushfire Review (State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), 2014);
 - (v) O’Sullivan and Lower Hotham Bushfires Review (SEMC, 2016);
and
 - (vi) The Western Australian State Emergency Management Committee Preparedness reports.
- (b) The effectiveness of reforms implemented by the State since 2011 on the State’s ability to prevent, mitigate and respond to major bushfires and the community’s understanding of and preparedness for bushfire risk.

3. The need for further reform

Any legislative, policy or functional reforms relating to bushfire risk management, emergency management and processes for review of major incidents to strengthen the State’s capability to efficiently and effectively manage bushfire-related risk.