### Recommendation 1

The State revise its bushfire safety policy. While adopting the national Prepare. Act. Survive. framework in Victoria, the policy should do the following:

- **enhance the role of warnings**—including providing for timely and informative advice about the predicted passage of a fire and the actions to be taken by people in areas potentially in its path
- **emphasise that all fires are different** in ways that require an awareness of fire conditions, local circumstances and personal capacity
- **recognise that the heightened risk on the worst days demands a different response**
- **retain those elements of the existing bushfire policy that have proved effective**
- **strengthen the range of options available in the face of fire, including community refuges, bushfire shelters and evacuation**
- **ensure that local solutions are tailored and known to communities through local bushfire planning**
- **improve advice on the nature of fire and house defendability, taking account of broader landscape risks**

The Tasmanian Government notes that Tasmanian fire and land management agencies engaged in bushfire management, including Tasmania Fire Service (TFS), Forestry Tasmania (FT) and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE), are collaborating with all other Australian fire agencies and land management agencies through the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) to develop a new national position on bushfire safety. This position, which retains effective elements of the 2005 national position, will address all relevant issues raised by the VBRC including warnings, fire refuges and evacuation, the development and communication of local solutions, and improved advice for people at risk on the nature of fire and house defendability.

The position is expected to be endorsed by AFAC members in early September 2010 with the State expected to substantially adopt the position as policy before the 2010-11 bushfire season.

The agencies, as well as local government, shall take all steps necessary to implement those elements of the policy not yet in place.

#### State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) to review the agreed AFAC bushfire safety policy prior to the 2010-11 bushfire season.

### Recommendation 2

The State revise the approach to community bushfire safety education in order to:

- **ensure that its publications and educational materials reflect the revised bushfire safety policy**
- **equip all fire agency personnel with the information needed to effectively communicate the policy to the public as required**
- **ensure that in content and delivery the program is flexible enough to engage individuals, households and communities and to accommodate their needs and circumstances**
- **regularly evaluate the effectiveness of community education programs and amend them as necessary.**

The Tasmanian Government notes that the TFS, as the operational arm of the State Fire Commission, has statutory responsibility for developing effective fire prevention and protection measures throughout the State.

Once the State has adopted a revised bushfire safety policy (see recommendation 1), steps will be taken to ensure that all bushfire publications and educational materials:

- **reflect the policy;**
- **will be flexible enough to engage individuals, households and communities; and**
- **will continue to be evaluated periodically and amended; and**
- **all operational fire agency personnel are equipped to communicate the policy.**

TFS bushfire safety education materials already largely reflect the bushfire safety policy likely to be adopted in Tasmania.

#### TFS to progress revisions to community bushfire safety education to reflect the revised bushfire safety policy.
### Recommendation 3

The State establish mechanisms for helping municipal councils to undertake local planning that tailors bushfire safety options to the needs of individual communities. In doing this planning, councils should:

- urgently develop for communities at risk of bushfire local plans that contain contingency options such as evacuation and shelter
- document in municipal emergency management plans and other relevant plans facilities where vulnerable people are likely to be situated—for example, aged care facilities, hospitals, schools and child care centres
- compile and maintain a list of vulnerable residents who need tailored advice of a recommendation to evacuate and provide this list to local police and anyone else with pre-arranged responsibility for helping vulnerable residents evacuate.

The Tasmanian Government has provided $2 million over three years to develop community protection plans, with an initial focus on the development of bushfire protection plans for communities most at risk from bushfires. Planning officers funded by the program and employed in TFS will develop plans for individual in consultation with local government, local brigades and other community representatives. These plans will:

- identify where vulnerable people will gather during bushfires, including in fire refuges, and identify measures to protect them;
- identify assets the community values that will be prioritised for protection during bushfires; and
- identify egress routes during fires in the event evacuations are recommended.

Funding included $140,000 per year for three years to develop maps and other communications materials and strategies to enable communities to understand their local plan. Maps will be developed with the support of DPIPWE.

Municipal emergency management plans maintained by councils will be reviewed, and where necessary amended to ensure they:

- identify places where vulnerable people are likely to be, whether in an institution or at home, and
- ensure their needs are met during fires, including in the event they need to evacuate.

### Recommendation 4

The State introduce a comprehensive approach to shelter options that includes the following:

- developing standards for community refuges as a matter of priority and replacing the 2005 Fire Refuges in Victoria: Policy and Practice
- designating community refuges—particularly in areas of very high risk—where other bushfire safety options are limited
- working with municipal councils to ensure that appropriate criteria are used for bushfire shelters, so that people are not discouraged from using a bushfire shelter if there is no better option available
- acknowledging personal shelters around their homes as a fallback option for individuals.

The Tasmanian Government supports the development of national standards for community fire refuges. Bushfire shelter options adopted by the Tasmanian Government will be consistent with the State’s bushfire policy.

TFS, SES and local government will continue to collaborate on the identification of community fire refuges to provide alternative shelter options for residents, particularly in bushfire-prone areas where other options are limited.

TFS will describe and promote a range of places that may provide alternate, nearby shelter options in the event that homes or workplaces cannot provide adequate shelter during a bushfire, or fire refuges cannot be reached in time. People living in or routinely working in bushfire-prone areas will be encouraged to identify themselves a number of local alternative places of shelter.

Community fire refuges will be identified in community protection plans. A limited number of nearby shelter options may also be identified in these plans.

The position on bunkers will conform to the emerging national position. Bunkers will need to be compliant with yet-to-be-developed standards for both design, construction and use.

### Recommendation 5

The Tasmanian Government notes that large scale evacuations present significant challenges but that they may be appropriate in certain circumstances.

TFS (with DPIPWE) to continue to implement the community protection planning arrangements. Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM) to coordinate the review of municipal plans to ensure that they address issues associated with the evacuation of vulnerable people.

TFS, State Emergency Service (SES) and Local Government to continue to identify community fire refuges.
The State introduce a comprehensive approach to evacuation, so that this option is planned, considered and implemented when it is likely to offer a higher level of protection than other contingency options.

The approach should:
- encourage individuals—especially vulnerable people—to relocate early
- include consideration of plans for assisted evacuation of vulnerable people
- recommend ‘emergency evacuation’.

The Tasmanian Government accepts the observations of the Commission that vulnerable people, including individuals that have not prepared properties to be defended, should be encouraged to leave early.

The Tasmanian Government will progress this recommendation by:
- working with local government and service providers involved in emergency management planning and implementation to ensure that the interests of vulnerable people are addressed in State and municipal emergency management plans;
- examining how state and national warning systems can be used to encourage vulnerable people to leave early when appropriate;
- considering further a three-staged approach to evacuations—warning, evacuating vulnerable people, evacuating all people—depending on the nature of the bushfire threat.

Recommenda tion 6

Victoria lead an initiative of the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs to ensure that the national curriculum incorporates the history of bushfire in Australia and that existing curriculum areas such as geography, science and environmental studies include elements of bushfire education.

The Tasmanian Government notes that Victoria is the lead jurisdiction for this recommendation and will progress it nationally through the existing MCEEDYA framework.

The Tasmanian Government supports this recommendation in principle.

Recommendation 7

The Commonwealth lead an initiative through the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management, facilitated by Emergency Management Australia, to develop a national bushfire awareness campaign.

The Tasmanian Government welcomes support from the Commonwealth to promote bushfire awareness across the community. The Tasmanian Government encourages the Commonwealth, through Emergency Management Australia, to work collaboratively with all Australian fire and land management agencies engaged in bushfire management through the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC).

Recommendation 8

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment amend their procedures to require the following:
- at locations that attract preparedness levels A or B there be a full incident management team under the leadership of an accredited level 3 Incident Controller in position by 10.00 am on days of code red fire danger and a core incident management team (eight personnel) under the leadership of an accredited level 3 Incident Controller in position by 10.00 am on days of extreme fire danger
- that a full level 3 IMT be led by a level 3 Incident Controller.

The Tasmanian Government notes that the TFS has adequate arrangements in place for the management of bushfires, including those burning under extreme conditions, including:
- triggers for action for different circumstances, and
- action is to be taken in respect to:
  - establishment of incident management teams (IMTs)
  - deployment firefighting resources, including strike teams,
  - aerial support, and
  - community information and warnings about fires.

The Tasmanian Government accepts the observations of the Commission that vulnerable people, including individuals that have not prepared properties to be defended, should be encouraged to leave early.
unless the State Controller determines otherwise

The arrangements require TFS to liaise with Tasmania Police, FT, PWS, SES, local government and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

TFS does not consider it necessary to specifically prescribe a time for the establishment of IMTs during code red or extreme fire danger days.

A Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group comprised of senior TFS, FT and PWS personnel is reviewing qualifications for IMT personnel at all levels to ensure personnel working in IMTs have the appropriate skill sets. The MAC Group is planning more training to ensure adequate numbers of skilled people are available to support IMTs.

On adverse fire weather days, IMTs are put on standby, and have the capacity to ramp up capacity in the event fires break out.

All Level 3 IMTs in Tasmania are led by a Level 3 Incident Controller (IC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment prescribe and audit the minimum number and nature of level 3 joint training exercises in which incident management team staff (including volunteers) are required to participate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that all IMT personnel are initially qualified to national standards. The MAC Group is reviewing training and exercise arrangements to ensure personnel supporting Level 3 IMTs have and maintain adequate skill levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State clarify whether, during major fires, Victoria Police should discharge its coordination functions from the State Emergency Response Coordination Centre or from the State Control Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under the Tasmanian Government’s arrangements, Tasmania Police (TasPol) station a police liaison officer with all Level 3 IMTs, to ensure adequate liaison between IMTs and the police operations centre. In the event that the State Crisis Centre is activated, senior police officers will be located there. A senior police liaison officer is located at the TFS’s State Operations centre. TFS and TasPol regularly exercise coordination and communication arrangements to ensure they work effectively, and amend arrangements when needs are identified. The Tasmanian Government is satisfied with these arrangements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State consider amending the Emergency Management Act 1986 and the Emergency Management Manual Victoria in order to achieve the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Emergency Management Act 2006 already provides for the Commissioner of Police to be the State Controller. During an emergency, the State Controller already has primary responsibility for keeping the Minister informed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TFS, PWS and FT | review training and exercising arrangements for level 3 IMTs. |
| No further action required. |
| No further action required. |
### Recommendation 12

The State consider either amending the *Emergency Management Act 1986* or adopting a standing practice to require the Minister for Police and Emergency Services or the Chief Commissioner of Police to consult the Premier about the possibility of declaring a state of disaster for all of or any part of Victoria whenever the Minister or the Chief Commissioner of Police becomes aware of circumstances that make it a reasonable possibility that the criteria for making such a declaration will be satisfied.

The *Emergency Management Act 2006* already provides for the State Controller and the Premier to authorise emergency powers and/or declare a state of emergency. These powers provide the legislative basis for the saving of life, property and the environment during an emergency.

Additionally, the definition contained in the *Emergency Management Act 2006* already provides for circumstances that may result in an emergency event. This can apply to situations where warnings are issued for significant events, such as a bushfire or if it is believed that an event might lead to a major emergency.

The existence of the Security and Emergency Management Advisory Committee (SEMAG), State Emergency Management Committee and Regional Emergency Management Committees would provide considerable scope for the possibility of the declaration of emergency powers, or indeed an emergency itself, to be raised for discussion.

No further action required.

### Recommendation 13

The State consider amending the *Emergency Management Act 1986* to introduce a graded scale of emergency declarations short of a state of disaster.

When the *Emergency Management 2006* was introduced, one of the purposes behind its introduction was to simplify the three existing levels of declared states of alert, emergency and disaster by replacing such declarations with the ability for the State Controller to authorise special emergency powers and a single state of emergency declared by the Premier. Special emergency powers are very broad can be utilised for any event to achieve a range of outcomes. The structure, therefore, appears to address the concerns behind the recommendation.

DPEM to review communication arrangements to ensure that the nature of an emergency, including emergency powers that have been activated is clearly communicated to the public.

### Recommendation 14

The Victorian fire agencies amend the AIIMS framework before the 2010–11 fire season in order to do the following:

- designate the Information Unit as a separate section reporting directly to the Incident Controller and require that the Information Unit contain a dedicated Public Information Officer whenever a full incident management team is required
- specify a set of functions in relation to which the Deputy Incident Controller for a level 3 incident will have oversight, which may be adjustable for a particular incident by agreement between the Incident Controller and the Deputy Incident Controller
- ensure that an individual with local knowledge is incorporated in an incident management team.

The Tasmanian Government supports a review and redevelopment of the AIIMS structure by AFAC and its member agencies to ensure incident management teams support operational elements of the national bushfire safety position developed by AFAC’s member agencies. The Tasmanian Government supports in principle:

- increased emphasis placed on the importance of collecting information and issuing warnings,
- defining the role of a deputy incident controller for Level 3 incidents; and
- including a person with appropriate local knowledge in incident management teams.

TFS to progress via AFAC.
### Recommendation 15

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment:
- Amend their procedures to require that an incident action plan summary be completed within the first four hours of an incident being reported and provided to the State Control Centre and, where established, to the relevant Area of Operations Control Centre.
- Adopt DSE’s incident action plan summary as the template to be used by all incident management teams and ensure that the template is included in the online IMT Tool Box.
- Provide regular training to IMT staff, highlighting the importance of information and reinforcing the support available from specialists within the State Control Centre.

The Tasmanian Government:
- Supports the development of AIIMS procedures that require an incident action plan summary to be completed within the first four hours of an incident being reported, and provided to the State Incident Room and, where established, to the relevant Regional Incident Room; and
- Supports a review by TFS, FT and PWS of DSE’s incident action plan, and if deemed appropriate, its adoption by TFS and its emergency management partners.

The Government notes that TFS, FT and PWS conduct regular interagency training for IMT staff, highlighting the importance of information and reinforcing the support available from specialists in the State or Regional Incident Room.

### Recommendation 16

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment improve mapping support in the following ways:
- DSE providing mapping data free of charge to emergency response agencies.
- Greatly increasing the CFA’s ‘write’ access to FireMap for incident management team staff.
- Establishing a joint DSE–CFA training program to ensure that mapping officers in level 2 and 3 incident management teams are fully trained in using FireMap, including in producing fire prediction maps.
- Requiring before the 2010–11 fire season that FireMap be used for joint incidents.

Under the Tasmanian Government’s arrangements, framework and critical infrastructure data is already provided free to emergency service organisations.

The Tasmanian Government’s Emergency Services GIS Team undertakes regular training of their 24/7 on-call team in ArcMap, their operational GIS and desktop mapping system used for mapping in an Incident Management Team (IMT).

Other Tasmanian Government agencies, including the Parks and Wildlife Service and the TFS use a customised version of Mapinfo called Fire-plotter. While functional, fire-plotter has certain limitations that make it not suitable for multi-agency Level 3 fires.

The Tasmanian Government supports the principle of common mapping standards and systems for vegetation fires, including large and small wildfires and planned fires. However, there is currently no system in place that can provide fire maps (fire history-fuel age) for the whole State.

For this reason, the Tasmanian Government is seeking to develop the Tasmanian Emergency Management Spatial Information Support System (TEMSISS) through the Commonwealth Governments Digital Regions Initiative. If successful, the Project will provide improvements in the effectiveness and interoperability of mapping response and incident management during bushfires and other emergencies.

### Recommendation 17

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability

The Tasmanian Government notes that TFS, FT and PWS personnel in key IMT roles are trained to national AIIMS ICS standards. This includes those trained to function as Level 3 ICs.

These agencies already have in place a performance review system for all Level TFS, FT and PWS to review the pathway for progressing from Level 2 to Level 3 for key IMT positions.
and Environment establish before the 2010–11 fire season:

- a uniform, objective and transparent process based on the current DSE approach for the accreditation of level 3 Incident Controllers
- a performance review system for level 3 Incident Controllers
- a traineeship program for progression from level 2 to level 3 incident management team positions.

2 & 3 IMT personnel in key roles, including ICs.

The MAC Group is reviewing the pathway for progression from Level 2 to level 3 for key IMT positions, with reference to the draft AFAC PUA Control a Level 3 Incident qualification for AIIMS ICS Level 3 IC.

### Recommendation 18

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment amend their procedures to require that a suitably experienced, qualified and competent person be appointed as Incident Controller, regardless of the control agency for the fire.

The Tasmanian Government already has arrangements in place to ensure that a suitably experienced, qualified and competent person is appointed as IC, regardless of the control agency for the fire.

No further action required.

### Recommendation 19

The Country Fire Authority provide to all CFA volunteers an identification card or similar to facilitate their passage through roadblocks established in accordance with the 2009 Guidelines for the Operation of Traffic Management Points during Wildfires.

The Tasmanian Government notes that while TasPol has established an Emergency Traffic Management Point Access Levels protocol in collaboration with TFS, the protocol does not address how firefighters from TFS, FT or PWS are able to pass through road-blocks unless they are in an ‘emergency vehicle’.

The protocol will be reviewed to ensure that firefighters in vehicles other than emergency vehicles can be recognised by police officers and allowed to pass unless access has been restricted to emergency vehicles only.

DPEM, together with relevant stakeholders, to review the existing Emergency Traffic Management Point Access Levels protocol.

No further action required.

### Recommendation 20

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment amend their policies on aerial preparedness and standby arrangements, their dispatch protocols and the management of aircraft in order to do the following:

- require that at locations that attract the risk assessment or preparedness level A on code red days all personnel needed for air operations must be on standby by 10.00 am
- establish a system that enables the dispatch of aircraft to fires in high-risk areas without requiring a request from an Incident Controller or the State Duty Officer.

The Tasmanian Government notes that TFS, FT and PWS have had arrangements in place for several years for the management of air operations.

During the peak 12 weeks of the bushfire season, air and ground support crews are maintained on stand-by to enable rapid response to bushfires during daylight hours.

The Tasmanian Government notes that TFS Regional Chiefs have the authority to dispatch aircraft to support firefighting operations without a request from the IC or direction from more senior operational officers.

TFS do not consider it necessary to prescribe a time by which personnel needed for air operations are on standby during code red days.

No further action required.

### Recommendation 21

The Tasmanian Government notes that COMDISPLAN already provides for

No further action required.
The State, in conjunction with Emergency Management Australia and the Department of Defence, develop an agreement that allows Commonwealth aerial resources that are suitable for firefighting and support activities to be incorporated in preparedness plans and used on days of high fire risk.

Commonwealth assistance to be sought in the response to an emergency. Similarly, the availability of such assistance is recognised in the State’s overall preparedness.

The Tasmanian Government, would, however, welcome any improvements in arrangements with EMA, NAFC and the Department of Defence that will provide aerial resources suitable for fire-fighting and support activities, provided those resources are placed under the control of local IMTs.

**Recommendation 22**

The Country Fire Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment standardise their operating systems and information and communications technologies with the aim of achieving greater efficiency and interoperability between agencies.

The Tasmanian Government supports the principle of standard operating systems and technologies for the TFS, FT and PWS.

Examples that exist already and are testament to the close cooperation between TFS, FT and PWS include:

- the establishment of the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group;
- an integrated VHF radio communication systems with full interoperability between agencies;
- a single operational management system (AllMS ICS), supported by joint training and exercises;
- a single Incident Resource Management System (IRMS) for database record keeping of personnel and equipment;
- a single website managed by TFS for all bushfire incidents on all tenure and response agencies;
- close cooperation in incident reporting and communication;
- common and standard Incident Action Plan and Situation Report formats and mapping symbols for bushfires; and
- inter-agency policies, procedures, guidelines and instructions.

Opportunities to extend interoperability to other agencies or functional units that assist with bushfire response (e.g. TasPol, SES) will be evaluated.

TFS, FT and PWS use different operational mapping software and procedures. While they have a base level of interoperability, they are different systems and require data transformation between systems that introduce an extra process that affects efficiency.

TFS has an agreement with the EMGIS Unit to provide mapping capability for Level 2 & 3 incidents.

To begin to address issues arising from the use of different mapping systems, as an interim step, it has been proposed that a map catalogue be developed, aimed at providing consistency in the map products generated, regardless of the system used to create the map. This was the subject of a 2010 Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding application that failed to attract funding.

Development of the Tasmanian Emergency Management Spatial Information Support System (TEMSISS) as a key component of the Building Disaster Resilient Communities through Digital Technologies Project would provide improvements in the effectiveness and interoperability of mapping response and...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 23</th>
<th>The Tasmanian Government notes that under Tasmania’s emergency management arrangements, relevant agencies have and maintain a comprehensive radio communications network. The multi-channel network supports interoperability, as agencies involved in bushfire-fighting operations, and local government, are able to communicate with each other as necessary. Black spots identified at fires are overcome in the short-term through the establishment of portable repeaters. In places where black-spots need to be eliminated, the capacity of existing radio communications facilities is ‘tweaked’.</th>
<th>No further action required.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation 24</strong></td>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that under Tasmania’s emergency management arrangements, relevant agencies already have in place comprehensive procedures for investigating accidents and near-misses occurring at bushfires. Lessons learned from these investigations enable the development of procedures to avoid repeats incidents. Procedures are in place to minimise the risk of unwanted outcomes from back-burning operations. The impact and effectiveness of back-burns are assessed during compulsory post-incident debriefs conducted after all Level 2 &amp; 3 incidents.</td>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation 25</strong></td>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that arrangements are already in place in Tasmania that require all relevant staff to be trained in the need for IC approval to be obtained before a back-burn is lit.</td>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation 26</strong></td>
<td>The Tasmanian Government approves in principle the introduction of measures designed to improve the safety of firefighters during bushfires. TFS, FT and PWS arrangements require that all Level 2 &amp; 3 IMTs include a safety adviser. These agencies, as members of AFAC, will participate in a review of ALLMS ICS, which will include further consideration of the title and role of ‘safety officers’.</td>
<td>TFS, PWS and FT to participate in the national review of ALLMS ICS which will include further consideration of the title and role of ‘safety officers’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Recommendation 27** | The Tasmanian Government notes the advice from Tasmania’s electricity distributor, Aurora Energy, that, while the issues faced in Victoria also occur in Tasmania, the use of SWER lines is less common.
On 10 December 2009, the Victorian Government committed to hold a national workshop with representatives from government, regulators (technical and economic), industry and consumer associations, and community representatives (including from bushfire affected communities) to facilitate consideration of the most effective way to supply electricity to rural areas of the state while cutting fire risk. At this workshop, held in June 2010, it was noted that ‘more work is necessary to gather the mass of quantitative data required for reliable analysis and identification of options that will most | Aurora has agreed to continue to work with the Tasmania Fire Service to manage the risks associated with SWER power lines in areas of highest bushfire risk.
Aurora will reduce the risks of SWER power lines initiating a bushfire by: |
| - Testing all SWER isolating |
should be completed in the areas of highest bushfire risk within 10 years and should continue in areas of lower bushfire risk as the lines reach the end of their engineering lives.

- the progressive replacement of all 22-kilovolt distribution feeders with aerial bundled cable, underground cabling or other technology that delivers greatly reduced bushfire risk as the feeders reach the end of their engineering lives. Priority should be given to distribution feeders in the areas of highest bushfire risk.  

cost-effectively deliver a step change reduction in fire risk from electricity network assets.

The Tasmanian Government believes that delivering the most appropriate balance of safety, security, reliability, affordability and sustainability of electricity supply to Tasmanian communities requires a risk management approach. For this reason, Aurora Energy has an ongoing work program to manage the risks associated with SWER to the Tasmanian community. The expertise on power lines and fire risk lies with the distributor. The Tasmanian Government will continue to consult with Aurora Energy on this issue.

The Tasmanian Government notes that Aurora Energy already inspects its assets on a 3.5 year cycle. In addition to this, Aurora Energy conducts a periodic fire mitigation audit and an annual vegetation audit.

The Tasmanian Government notes that, as part of the regulatory regime in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Electricity Code has a chapter devoted to Distribution Powerline Vegetation Management, namely chapter 8A. The objectives of the Chapter are set as:

- to promote public safety in respect of fire hazards;
- to establish a standard of care which should be observed when managing vegetation near distribution powerlines;
- to reduce vegetation related interruptions to electricity supply;
- to encourage the Distribution Network Service Provider to consult with transformer earths;

- Replacing conductor based on condition (this recommendation would ultimately result in the replacement of some SWER).
- Replacing all fuse tubes and elements to ensure that fuses are coordinated and will not hang up.
- Installing Low Voltage fuses if not already installed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State (through Energy Safe Victoria) require distribution businesses to change their asset inspection standards and procedures to require that all SWER lines and all 22-kilovolt feeders in areas of high bushfire risk are inspected at least every three years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that Aurora Energy already inspects its assets on a 3.5 year cycle. In addition to this, Aurora Energy conducts a periodic fire mitigation audit and an annual vegetation audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required. It is noted that the formal 3.5 year cycle of asset inspections as well as targeted annual vegetation audits and periodic fire mitigation audits complies with the principle of the recommendation of the Royal Commission.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State (through Energy Safe Victoria) require distribution businesses to review and modify their current practices, standards and procedures for the training and auditing of asset inspectors to ensure that registered training organisations provide adequate theoretical and practical training for asset inspectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that Aurora Energy already has an enterprise training program for pole inspectors conducted by a Registered Training Organisation. Inspection of Aurora assets is undertaken by Aurora staff with the relevant qualifications and experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State amend the regulatory framework for electricity safety to require that distribution businesses adopt, as part of their management plans, measures to reduce the risks posed by hazard trees—that is, trees that are outside the clearance zone but that could come into contact with an electric power line having regard to foreseeable local conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that, as part of the regulatory regime in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Electricity Code has a chapter devoted to Distribution Powerline Vegetation Management, namely chapter 8A. The objectives of the Chapter are set as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
affected persons, seek advice on specifics from the relevant authorities and have regard to any guidelines provided by relevant authorities;
• to balance fire safety, reliability of the electricity system and community costs with conservation, amenity, utility and heritage values in the best interests of the people of Tasmania; and
• to minimise the effect of the management of vegetation around distribution powerlines on the natural environment.

There are a number of methods of maintaining the clearance space. The most common method is pruning and clearing of vegetation. Other methods include:
• using construction methods such as underground electric lines;
• selecting distribution powerline routes which avoid vegetation;
• using engineering solutions, for example, taller poles for low growth vegetation areas;
• planting appropriate vegetation species which will not interfere with distribution powerlines even when fully grown;
• informing private landowners as to appropriate vegetation species to be planted under and around distribution powerlines; and
• using insulated cables such as aerial-bundled cable to reduce the clearance space required.

The Code (in 8A.2.1) list the factors determining the most appropriate method of maintaining the clearance space as being:
• minimisation of the potential risk to the public;
• cost;
• community conservation and heritage values, utility, amenity and visual impact;
• negotiation and consultation with owners or occupiers; and
• the type of vegetation and its growth and regrowth characteristics.

Aurora Energy has a Vegetation Management Strategy which aims to comply with Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code by using sound risk management principles and engaging in processes and procedures that:
• Ensure long-term sustainability for the environment;
• Satisfy stakeholders;
• Maximise efficiency, and
• Ensure effectiveness.

A fundamental part of Aurora Energy's strategy includes measures aimed at reducing risks posed by trees inside the Hazard Space.
Aurora Energy's Vegetation Management Strategy is reviewed by an independent appraiser appointed by the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (OTTER) with
**Recommendation 31**

Municipal councils include in their municipal fire prevention plans for areas of high bushfire risk provision for the identification of hazard trees and for notifying the responsible entities with a view to having the situation redressed.

The Tasmanian Government notes that Victorian legislation requires Councils to manage trees near powerlines in Declared Areas. Part of this requirement calls for Councils to develop Fire Prevention Plans and ensure formal guidelines and relationships are established with relevant Electricity Utilities and ESV. Legislation in Tasmania does not impose such responsibilities on Councils. Instead it is Aurora Energy’s responsibility to manage Council Trees near powerlines.

Aurora Energy has close working relationships with Councils across and the longer-term intention is to form MoUs with key Councils in an effort to formalise these relationships.

Councils are encouraged to approach Aurora Energy at any time with concerns or requests regarding hazard trees.

Hazardous trees are a key safety issue during operations and are already flagged in operational plans. Inclusion in community fire protection plans will be trialled as part of that project.

**Recommendation 32**

The State (through Energy Safe Victoria) require distribution businesses to do the following:

- disable the reclose function on the automatic circuit reclosers on all SWER lines for the six weeks of greatest risk in every fire season
- adjust the reclose function on the automatic circuit reclosers on all 22-kilovolt feeders on all total fire ban days to permit only one reclose attempt before lockout.

The Tasmanian Government notes that the first part of this recommendation has no impact in Tasmania as Aurora Energy does not have any automatic circuit reclosers on its SWER lines.

Addressing the second dot point, Aurora Energy already has a ‘one shot to lock out policy’ on all its protection devices on Total Fire Ban Days as part of its standard procedures and this has been the case for at least 6 years. This results in feeders not being restored until a full patrol has been undertaken. Aurora manages this on advice from the Bureau of Meteorology and the TFS. Areas of total fire ban are identified and all reclosers in that area can be reset from the central control room.

**Recommendation 33**

The State (through Energy Safe Victoria) require distribution businesses to do the following:

- fit spreaders to any lines with a history of clashing or the potential to do so
- fit or retrofit all spans that are more than 300 metres long with vibration dampers as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The Tasmanian Government notes that this recommendation does not state whether this applies to high voltage (HV) or low voltage (LV) lines. Once clarification is provided on this recommendation, the Tasmanian Government will consider its position further.

Spreaders are fitted onto bare LV lines in fire danger areas as part of Aurora Energy’s fire mitigation asset repair program. Work is prioritised based on span length and conductor spacing.

While Aurora Energy does not fit vibration dampers, crews do use helical topside ties plus new lines are designed to a conductor-conductor spacing greater than specified in the relevant specification (that is, Aurora operates in a manner safer than the standard requires).

Aurora Energy’s fire mitigation strategy is heavily targeted at reducing/mitigating long HV spans.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State amend the regulatory framework for electricity safety to strengthen Energy Safe Victoria’s mandate in relation to the prevention and mitigation of electricity-caused bushfires and to require it to fulfill that mandate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government will review the regulatory framework for electricity safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Justice will review the regulatory framework for electricity safety to identify whether any additional legislative changes are necessary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Victoria Police continue to pursue a coordinated statewide approach to arson prevention and regularly review its approach to ensure that it contains the following elements:  
  - high-level commitment from senior police  
  - a research program aimed at refining arson prevention and detection strategies  
  - centralised coordination that includes comprehensive training, periodic evaluation of arson prevention strategies and programs, and promotion of best-practice prevention approaches  
  - a requirement that all fire-prone police service areas have arson prevention plans and programs, according to their level of risk. |
| The Tasmanian Government is committed to a statewide approach to arson prevention coordinated by Tasmania Police, that includes the following elements:  
  - high-level commitment from senior police;  
  - a research program aimed at refining arson prevention and detection strategies;  
  - centralised coordination that includes comprehensive training, periodic evaluation of arson prevention strategies and programs, and promotion of best-practice prevention approaches; and  
  - a requirement that all fire-prone police service areas have arson prevention plans and programs, according to their level of risk. |
| Tasmania Police to review arson prevention arrangements, with priority given to fire-prone police service areas. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Commonwealth, states and territories continue to pursue the National Action Plan to Reduce Bushfire Arson in Australia, giving priority to producing a nationally consistent framework for data collection and evaluating current and proposed programs in order to identify and share best-practice approaches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government supports in principle the aims of the National Action Plan to Reduce Bushfire Arson in Australia, and will continue to collaborate with police services in other Australian jurisdictions to produce a nationally consistent framework for data collection and evaluating current and proposed programs in order to identify and share best-practice approaches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania Police to continue to support national action in this area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 37</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The State identify a central point of responsibility for and expertise in mapping bushfire risk to:  
  - review urgently the mapping criteria at present used by the Country Fire Authority to map the Wildfire Management Overlay, to ensure that the mapping used to determine building and planning controls is based on the best available science and takes account of all relevant aspects of bushfire risk;  
  - map and designate Bushfire-prone Areas for the purposes of planning and building controls, in consultation with |
| In March 2009, following the Victorian bushfires, the Tasmanian Government announced that it would take immediate steps to ensure that appropriate standards were applied to the construction of houses in bushfire prone areas. This included consideration of an appropriate definition of a ‘bushfire prone area’ for the purposes of applying the relevant national standard for construction.  
  - The State Government has agreed to the recommendations of the review, including:  
    - making necessary legislative amendments;  
    - defining bushfire prone areas in Tasmania for the purposes of the Building Code of Australia;  
    - referring a draft Planning Directive to the Tasmanian Planning |
| TFS, DoJ and Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) to implement the recommendations of the review. |
municipal councils and fire agencies
- finalise the alignment of site-assessment methods for planning and building purposes, taking into account bushfire risk to human safety as well as to property.

DPIPWE is funded by the State Government to provide first-pass maps of bushfire areas for the use of councils in determining planning and building controls. The method to be adopted will include consideration of the information gained from the Royal Commission.

### Recommendation 38

The State implement a regional settlement policy that:
- takes account of the management of bushfire risk, including that associated risks with small, undeveloped rural lots
- includes a process for responding to bushfire risk at the planning stage for new urban developments in regional cities, the process being similar to that used for new developments in Melbourne’s Urban Growth Zone.

See response to recommendation 37.

TFS, DoJ and DPAC to implement the recommendations of the review.

### Recommendation 39

The State amend the Victoria Planning Provisions relating to bushfire to ensure that the provisions give priority to the protection of human life, adopt a clear objective of substantially restricting development in the areas of highest bushfire risk—giving due consideration to biodiversity conservation—and provide clear guidance for decision makers. The amendments should take account of the conclusions reached by the Commission and do the following:
- outline the State’s objectives for managing bushfire risk through land-use planning in an amended state planning policy for bushfire, as set out in clause 15.07 of the Victoria Planning Provisions
- allow municipal councils to include a minimum lot size for use of land for a dwelling, both with and without a permit, in a schedule to each of the Rural Living Zone, Green Wedge Zone, Green Wedge A Zone, Rural Conservation Zone, Farming Zone and Rural Activity Zone
- amend clause 44.06 of the Victoria Planning Provisions to provide a comprehensive Bushfire-prone Overlay provision.

Whilst the propose planning directive does not propose minimum lot sizes for use of land, it does require new titles to be viable in terms of accommodating adequate separation distances between buildings and bushfire prone vegetation.

See response to recommendation 37.

TFS, DoJ and DPAC to implement the recommendations of the review.

### Recommendation 40

The Country Fire Authority amend its guidelines for assessing permit applications for dwellings, non dwellings and subdivisions in

It is noted that it is not the role of the TFS to approve new developments in Tasmania. Rather, the TFS acts in an advisory capacity to Local Government.

See response to recommendation 37

TFS, DoJ and DPAC to implement the recommendations of the review.
the Bushfire-prone Overlay in order to accommodate the amendments to the Wildfire Management Overlay that are implemented as a result of recommendation 39 and make the guidelines available to municipal councils and the public. The revised guidelines should do the following:

- substantially restrict new developments and subdivisions in those areas of highest risk in the Bushfire-prone Overlay
- set out the CFA’s guidelines for assessing permit applications for dwellings, non-dwellings and subdivisions—including the minimum defendable space requirements for different risk levels
- clarify that the CFA will approve new developments and subdivisions only if the recommended bushfire protection measures—including the minimum defendable space—can be created and maintained on a continuing basis
- emphasise the need for enduring permit conditions—in particular, conditions for the creation and maintenance of minimum defendable space to be maintained for the life of the development.

**Recommendation 41**

The State:

- amend the Victoria Planning Provisions to require that, when assessing a permit to remove native vegetation around an existing dwelling, the responsible authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, as referral authority, take into account fire hazard and give weight to fire protection purposes
- develop guidelines for determining the maximum level of native vegetation removal for bushfire risk mitigation, beyond which level the application would be rejected.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the competing needs of maintaining biodiversity and fire protection and seeks to balance the two.

A number of Tasmanian planning authorities allow the removal of native vegetation for the purpose of reducing the threat of bushfire. This issue is not, however, managed consistently across all planning schemes.

Given the focus on this issue in the report of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission, it is considered appropriate to review the current arrangements in Tasmania to assess whether there is an appropriate balance between biodiversity conservation and bushfire mitigation.

**Recommendation 42**

The Department of Sustainability and Environment develop and administer a collective offset solution for individual landholders who are permitted to remove native vegetation for the purpose of fire protection.

The need for an offset solution for individual landowners that are permitted to remove native vegetation for the purposes of fire protection will be considered as part of the review.

**Recommendation 43**

The Department of Sustainability and Environment conduct biodiversity mapping identifying flora, fauna and any threatened species throughout Victoria and make the results publicly available.

The Tasmanian Government already undertakes biodiversity mapping and this information is publicly available through the Land Information Service Tasmanian (LIST).

No further action required.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The format used should be compatible with that used for Bushfire-prone Area mapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Country Fire Authority produce for community guidance material on fire-resistant landscape and garden design, including a list of fire-resistant species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that TFS already produces and distributes information about landscaping and fire retardant plants, both in a brochure and on the web. This is reviewed prior to each reprint to incorporate any advances in information or techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State press municipal councils—in particular, Murrindindi Shire Council—to urgently adopt a bushfire policy in their Local Planning Policy Framework and incorporate bushfire risk management in their planning policies and strategies for rebuilding communities such as Marysville, Kinglake and others affected by the January–February 2009 fires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government already works closely with Local Government to mitigate the impact of bushfires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government notes that TFS already produces and distributes information about landscaping and fire retardant plants, both in a brochure and on the web. This is reviewed prior to each reprint to incorporate any advances in information or techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFS, DoJ and DPAC to implement the recommendations of the review of controls on development and use in bushfire prone areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State develop and implement a retreat and resettlement strategy for existing developments in areas of unacceptably high bushfire risk, including a scheme for non-compulsory acquisition by the State of land in these areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government has, and will continue to support efforts to enable households and communities to better prepare for and understand the risks they face. This includes the work being undertaken by COAG in relation to the resilience agenda and the work being undertaken by AFAC in relation to the development of an assessment tool that will enable householders to assess the defendability of their homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Government does not consider it necessary to implement a retreat and resettlement strategy for existing development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 47</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government supports this recommendation And will actively participate in the national standard setting processed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government supports this recommendation. TFS and DoJ to continue to participate in national standard setting processes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standards Australia do the following:

- Amend the objective of AS 3959-2009, Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas, to ensure that it incorporates reducing the risk of ignition from ember attack.
- Review and amend as appropriate, the testing methods prescribed in its standards for Tests on Elements of Construction for Buildings Exposed to Simulated Bushfire Attack (AS 1530.8.1 and AS 1530.8.2) to ensure that, so far as is possible, the methods provide a reliable predictor of the performance of construction elements under bushfire conditions.

**Recommendation 48**

The Australian Building Codes Board do the following:

- Amend the performance requirements in the Building Code of Australia to ensure that they incorporate reducing the risk of ignition from ember attack.
- Negotiate with Standards Australia and SAI Global Ltd an arrangement for free online access to AS 3959-2009, Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas, the other Australian standards referred to in AS 3959-2009, and any other bushfire-related Australian standards referred to in the Building Code of Australia.
- Amend the Building Code of Australia to remove deemed-to-satisfy provisions for the construction of buildings in BAL-FZ (the Flame Zone).
- Include in the Building Code of Australia bushfire construction provisions for non-residential buildings that will be occupied by people who are particularly vulnerable to bushfire attack, such as schools, child care centres, hospitals, and aged care facilities.

The State Government notes that these issues will be considered by the Australian Building Codes Board. The State continues to support the consultation and assessment processes employed by the Australian Building Code Board and Standards Australia.

The State Government notes that the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of Development and Use Controls in Bushfire Prone Areas will ensure that any changes to national standards and the Building Code of Australia will be automatically adopted in Tasmania.

**Recommendation 49**

The State modify its adoption of the Building Code of Australia for the following purposes:

- To remove deemed-to-satisfy provisions for the construction of buildings in BAL-FZ (the Flame Zone).
- To apply bushfire construction provisions to non-residential

The State Government notes that the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of Development and Use Controls in Bushfire Prone Areas will ensure that any changes to national standards and the Building Code of Australia will be automatically adopted in Tasmania.

No further action required.
buildings that will be occupied by people who are particularly vulnerable to bushfire attack, such as schools, child care centres, hospitals and aged care facilities. Other than in exceptional circumstances, to apply a minimum AS 3959-2009 construction level of BAL-12.5 to all new buildings and extensions in bushfire-prone areas.

**Recommendation 50**
Standards Australia move expeditiously to develop a standard for bushfire sprinklers and sprayers.

The State Government supports this recommendation. No further action required.

**Recommendation 51**
The Victorian Building Commission, in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority, develop, publish and provide to the community and industry information about ways in which existing buildings in bushfire-prone areas can be modified to incorporate bushfire safety measures.

The Tasmanian Government supports this recommendation. TFS exchanges information with other jurisdictions on these measures on a continuing basis.

**Recommendation 52**
The State develop and implement, in consultation with local government, a mechanism for sign-off by municipal councils of any permit conditions imposed under the Bushfire-prone Overlay and the regular assessment of landowners' compliance with conditions.

As noted at recommendations 37, the State Government has agreed to refer a draft Planning Directive regarding controls on development and use in bushfire prone areas to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for consideration. Additionally, if implemented, the Tasmanian Government will also produce a first pass map of bushfire prone areas in parallel with this. The State will also be working with municipalities that have already mapped bushfire prone areas (based on current TFS guidelines) to adapt these maps to meet the revised definitions. The priorities for developing detailed maps in other areas of the State will be considered in consultation with Councils and upon consideration of the bushfire risks and development demand. The community protection planning initiative of the Tasmanian Fire Service will assist relevant Councils to priorities auditing and compliance activities with regard to maintenance of bushfire mitigation measures. The State will continue to work with Local Government on these issues.

**Recommendation 53**
The State amend s. 32 of the Sale of Land Act 1962 to require that a vendor's statement include whether the land is in a designated Bushfire-prone Area, a statement about the standard (if any) to which the dwelling was constructed, the bushfire attack level assessment at the time of construction (where relevant) and a current bushfire attack level assessment of the site of the dwelling.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet is currently considering the arrangements for mitigating the impacts of natural hazards through land use planning. The arrangements for communicating risks associated with all natural hazards, including bushfires, will be considered through this process.

**Recommendation 54**
The Fire Service Act 1979 already allows for the Chief Officer to delegate the arrangements for communicating the risks associated with natural hazards as part of the review of the state framework for mitigating the impact of natural hazards through land use planning.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet is currently considering the arrangements for mitigating the impacts of natural hazards through land use planning. The arrangements for communicating risks associated with all natural hazards, including bushfires, will be considered through this process.

No further action required.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td>The State amend the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 to enable the Chief Officer to delegate the power to issue fire prevention notices. TFS also encourages local government to use hazard abatement provisions in the Local Government Act.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **56**         | The State initiate the development of education and training options to improve understanding of bushfire risk management in the building and planning regimes by:  
• providing regular training and guidance material to planning and building practitioners  
• helping a suitable tertiary institution design and implement a course on bushfire planning and design in Victoria.|
| **57**         | The State has agreed to implement the recommendations of the Review of Development and Use Controls in Bushfire Prone Areas. This includes the establishment of a system of training of industry and local government officials on bushfire mitigation measures for land use planning and building design. The Tasmanian Fire Service is actively supporting the development of suitable tertiary-level courses to support responsible land use planning and building in bushfire prone areas. |
| **58**         | TFS, DoJ and DPAC to implement the recommendations of the review of controls on development and use in bushfire prone areas. |

**Recommendation 55**  
The State initiate the development of education and training options to improve understanding of bushfire risk management in the building and planning regimes by:  
• providing regular training and guidance material to planning and building practitioners  
• helping a suitable tertiary institution design and implement a course on bushfire planning and design in Victoria.  

**Recommendation 56**  
The State fund and commit to implementing a long-term program of prescribed burning based on an annual rolling target of 5 per cent minimum of public land.  

**Recommendation 57**  
The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) will prepare advice for the Minister for Police and Emergency Management regarding long-term prescribed burning targets for public land.  

**Recommendation 58**  
The Tasmanian Fire Service is actively supporting the development of suitable tertiary-level courses to support responsible land use planning and building in bushfire prone areas.  

**Recommendation 59**  
The State Fire Management Council (SFMC) will prepare advice for the Minister for Police and Emergency Management regarding routine reporting on targets, area burnt, funds expended and impacts on biodiversity.  

**Recommendation 60**  
The SFMC is preparing advice for the Minister for Police and Emergency Management regarding long-term data collection to monitor and model the effects of prescribed burning programs and of bushfires on biodiversity in Victoria.  

**Recommendation 61**  
The SFMC maintains a State Vegetation Fire Management Policy as a key responsibility. While codes of practice for fire management on public land are yet to be developed, SEMC will consider the development of codes following a review of the above policy.  

**Recommendation 62**  
The State already uses the term ‘bushfire’ rather than ‘wildfire’.  

**Recommendation 63**  
The Ministry for Police and Emergency Management request that the SFMC provide advice in this area.  

**Recommendation 64**  
The Ministry for Police and Emergency Management request that SFMC provide advice to the Government on the value of prescribed burning programs in Tasmania prior to the conclusion of current funding in 2010-11.  

**Recommendation 65**  
The Minister for Police and Emergency Management request that SFMC provide regular advice on prescribed burning activities.  

**Recommendation 66**  
The Minister for Police and Emergency Management request that the SFMC provide advice to the Government on the value of prescribed burning programs in Tasmania prior to the conclusion of current funding in 2010-11.  

**Recommendation 67**  
The Minister for Police and Emergency Management request that SFMC provide advice to the Government on the value of prescribed burning programs in Tasmania prior to the conclusion of current funding in 2010-11.  

**Recommendation 68**  
The Minister for Police and Emergency Management request that SFMC provide advice to the Government on the value of prescribed burning programs in Tasmania prior to the conclusion of current funding in 2010-11.
• include an explicit risk-analysis model for more objective and transparent resolution of competing objectives, where human life is the highest priority
• specify the characteristics of fire management zones—including burn size, percentage area burnt within the prescribed burn, and residual fuel loading
• adopt the use of the term ‘bushfire’ rather than ‘wildfire’.

**Recommendation 60**
The State amend the exemptions in clause 52.17-6 of the Victoria Planning Provisions to ensure that the provisions allow for a broad range of roadside works capable of reducing fire risk and provide specifically for a new exemption where the purpose of the works is to reduce bushfire risk.

The Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources maintains the State and National road networks, including the management of roadsides to ensure that appropriate portals are maintained clear of vegetation. In addition to its regular roadside maintenance programs, the Department undertook a significant exercise of removing hazardous vegetation during 2009-10. During this exercise the Department did not experience significant legislative constraints; however, in light of this Recommendation, the relevant Tasmanian legislation will be reviewed to identify whether any amendments are considered necessary.

**DPAC** will coordinate a review of native vegetation legislation, including existing clearing provisions.

**Recommendation 61**
The State and Commonwealth provide for municipal councils adequate guidance on resolving the competing tensions arising from the legislation affecting roadside clearing and, where necessary, amend environment protection legislation to facilitate annual bushfire-prevention activities by the appropriate agencies.

The Tasmanian Government already takes a proactive approach with Local Government to encourage roadside clearing. This includes encouragement to issue abatement notices where considered necessary.

Local Government are also to approach the TFS for advice on areas of particular concern.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the competing needs of maintaining biodiversity and fire protection and seeks to balance the two. In light of this Recommendation, the relevant Tasmanian legislation will be reviewed to identify whether any amendments are considered necessary. This will include an assessment of competing tensions, the possible production of guidance material to inform both state and local government agencies of the appropriate approach to resolving these competing tensions.

**DPAC** will coordinate a review of native vegetation legislation, including existing clearing provisions.

**Recommendation 62**
VicRoads implement a systematic statewide program of bushfire risk assessment for all roads for which it is responsible, to ensure conformity with the obligations in s. 43 of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 and with the objectives expressed in the VicRoads 1985 Code of Practice.

The Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources undertakes a regular roadside maintenance programs. In addition, the Department undertook a significant exercise in removing hazardous vegetation during 2009-10. However, in light of Recommendation 62, a review will be conducted to considering whether a further statewide program of bushfire risk assessment for all State and National road networks is required.

**DIER** to assess whether a statewide program for vegetation management is required based on an appropriate risk assessment.

**Recommendation 63**
The Tasmanian Fire Service Act 1979 already provides for a single fire service in Tasmania, and provides for a single independent statutory officer (the Chief TFS) to consider whether legislative amendments are
The State enact legislation designed to achieve two specific ends:

- appoint a Fire Commissioner as an independent statutory officer responsible to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and as the senior operational firefighter in Victoria
- make the Chief Fire Officer of the Department of Sustainability and Environment a statutory appointment.

The Fire Commissioner should have responsibility for the following:

- promoting and directing reform aimed at increasing the operational capability, interoperability and resilience of Victoria’s fire services
- developing and building operational capacity to prepare for the days of highest bushfire risk and exercising control over level 3 fires as the permanent State Controller
- providing to government periodic advice on the metropolitan fire district boundary on the basis of triggers, frequency and criteria approved by government
- representing Victorian interests on operational matters in national committees.

The Tasmanian Government is satisfied with current non-statutory arrangements to increase the interoperability, capability and resilience of agencies engaged in bushfire-fighting operations.

The Chief Officer or his delegate already represents Tasmanian interests on operational matters in national committees.

As TFS is the sole fire service in Tasmania, and career and volunteer firefighters who provide protection for urban, peri-urban and rural areas operate seamlessly, fire district boundaries between metropolitan and rural areas from an operational perspective are not relevant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State replace the Fire Services Levy with a property-based levy and introduce concessions for low-income earners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government is satisfied that the funding provisions of the Fire Service Act 1979 are arguably the fairest set of provisions in Australia in relation to the raising of funds to support fire service operations. The Act does not attempt to target one specific group in the community but rather seeks to share the costs associated with maintaining a fire service with those groups in the community most likely to require those services. Concessions on the Fire Service Levy in Tasmania are already available to low income earners; that is, for those issued with a healthcare card.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Commonwealth establish a national centre for bushfire research in collaboration with other Australian jurisdictions to support pure, applied and long-term research in the physical, biological and social sciences relevant to bushfires and to promote continuing research and scholarship in related disciplines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tasmanian Government supports the establishment of a national centre for bushfire research in collaboration with other Australian jurisdictions, to support pure, applied and long-term research in the physical, biological and social sciences relevant to bushfires and to promote continuing research and scholarship in related disciplines. The State already contributes funds to the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (BCRC), and notes the excellent research outcomes being achieved by the BCRC. The State also acknowledges the significant in-kind contributions of Tasmanian agencies to the BCRC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 66</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The State appoint an independent monitor or the Victorian Auditor-General to assess progress with implementing the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State Emergency Management Committee will oversee the implementation of the State’s response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State consider the development of legislation for the conduct of inquiries in Victoria — in particular, the conduct of royal commissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This recommendations relates specifically to Victorian legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No further action required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>