

HEADS OF AGREEMENT

for Partnership and Joint Bushfire Management Service Delivery
between the **Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)**
and the **Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)**



Department of Environment and Conservation

Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia



STATEMENT OF INTENT

- The intent of the DEC and FESA partnership is to provide joint, seamless and effective bushfire management services to the Western Australian community.
- The partnership will pursue continuous improvement in the efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness of bushfire management services to ensure the needs and expectations of communities are met and confidence and trust maintained.
- DEC and FESA are committed to evolving an inclusive, open and integrated operating environment with all parties involved in bushfire management.
- The partnership will be characterised by open communication, consultation, collaboration, transparency, accountability, honesty, respect and goodwill.
- The partnership will involve the sharing of information and knowledge, resources and systems for bushfire management activities to provide the best outcomes for the Western Australian community and for government.
- DEC and FESA are committed to the joint delivery of bushfire management services that span the prevention, preparation, response and recovery continuum.
- Joint service delivery will be conducted having regard to each organisation's systems of work, workforce composition and arrangements, decision-making processes and values, including those related to volunteer personnel.
- The primary objectives of the partnership will be the protection of life, property and the environment, and as a priority, service delivery during bushfire emergency incidents will always maximise the safety, health and welfare of firefighters and other emergency personnel.

PRINCIPLES

- DEC and FESA have agreed to be parties to this Heads of Agreement to confirm and establish their commitment to conducting integrated bushfire management activities, including the sharing of knowledge, resources and systems between the agencies.
- DEC and FESA will establish and maintain a series of protocols and planning documents at a state and regional level that detail the operating procedures required to ensure an effective, efficient and flexible service delivery to the Western Australian community.
- DEC and FESA agree that they will present a united, professional and responsible front to the community at all times, reflecting the principles of seamless service delivery for bushfire management activities.



- DEC and FESA agree that bushfire management activities will be conducted in accordance with the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS), and will operate in accordance with Western Australia's state emergency management policies, procedures, plans and arrangements and as documented in WESTPLAN Bushfire and associated documents.
- DEC and FESA will take every practicable opportunity to participate in joint programs, projects or training where a united approach will benefit the Western Australian community.
- DEC and FESA are committed to integrated planning and will ensure they consult and collaborate with each other in cases where they can reasonably foresee that plans or strategies they are developing will impact or require work in the area of responsibility of the other, or where a shared interest applies.
- DEC and FESA will implement joint coordination and management of aviation resources and activities in accordance with management guidelines and business rules agreed between the agencies.
- DEC and FESA will retain their respective legal responsibilities for their employees, volunteer members and local government volunteers and the actions of their employees, volunteer members and local government volunteers irrespective of the tenure on which they are operating.
- DEC and FESA will retain and fulfil their individual responsibilities for occupational safety and health, workers compensation and all other employee and volunteer welfare requirements during any joint training or operational activities irrespective of tenure.

DURATION AND REVIEW

- This Heads of Agreement will come into effect on the date of the last signature and will remain in effect until 30 June 2014, unless modified by the mutual written consent of DEC and FESA.
- This Heads of Agreement will be subject to annual review through the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC).

Keiran McNamara
Director General
Department of Environment and Conservation

4 / 11 / 2011

Wayne Gregson APM
Chief Executive Officer
Fire and Emergency Services Authority

4 / 11 / 2011



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Environment and Conservation
Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia