



AGENDA

Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting

To be held on:

Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 7:00pm

West Brookton Fire Shed

York-Williams Road, Brookton





NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Councillor, Resident or Ratepayer,

Notice is hereby given that the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting of the Brookton Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at the West Brookton Fire Shed, commencing at 7:00pm.

The business to be transacted is shown in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Sherry".

Gary Sherry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

17 March 2025

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1.03.25 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

On behalf of Council, I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Nyoongar People and pay respect to all Elders, past, present, and emerging. I wish to acknowledge and respect local people's continuing culture and the contribution they make to Country and its life.

2.03.25 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 27th August 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3.03.25 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

4.03.25. APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

In 2024/25 the Shire of Brookton made the following appointments.

Position	Appointment
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Murray Hall
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Travis Eva
FCO's – Central Brigade	Anton de Lange, Troy Bassett, Brad Bassett.
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Michael Eva.
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Mark Whittington.
FCO – Shire of Brookton	Jason Carrall
Dual FCO – Shire of Beverley	
Dual FCO – Shire of Corrigin	
Dual FCO – Shire of Pingelly	
Dual FCO – Shire of Wandering	

The Shire of Brookton request that the Shire CEO and Ms Jennie Mason be appointed Fire Control Officer, with limits to conduct Fire Break and other enforcement activities.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton make the following appointments for the 2025/26 fire season.

Position	Nominee(s)
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	
FCO's – Central Brigade	
FCO's – East Brigade	
FCO's – West Brigade	
FCO – Shire of Brookton	
Dual FCO – Shire of Beverley	
Dual FCO – Shire of Corrigin	
Dual FCO – Shire of Pingelly	
Dual FCO – Shire of Wandering	

5.03.25 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.03.25.01 FIRE BREAK NOTICE & ENFORCEMENT - 2024/25

Discussion enforcement process in 2024/25.

Enforcement Process includes:

1. Inspection
2. Letter issued to potential non-compliance properties requiring action in 14 days to meet compliance;
3. Re-Inspection of potential non-compliance properties;
4. Issue infringement to non-compliant properties and letter requiring compliance or Shire will respond.
5. Shire complete on-ground activities.

	Inspected	Letters issued	Infringements issued	Non-Compliant
Residential	415	36	3	1
Rural	89	37	10	0

5.03.25.01 FIRE BREAK NOTICE & ENFORCEMENT - REQUIREMENT FOR INSPECTIONS

FCOs (and only FCOs) have authority under Section 14 of Bush Fires Act to enter land for the purposes of the Act.

Volunteer FCOs and the Shire CESM don't have time to inspect fire breaks in November.

Therefore there is a requirement to have either a staff member/or Shire Contractor appointed as a FCO with limits to review fire break order compliance. This allows the staff member/or Shire Contractor to have the authority to enter property to inspect fire breaks.

Bush Fires Act

14. Certain persons may enter land or building for purposes of Act

- (1) A person employed in the Department who is authorised by the FES Commissioner so to do, a bush fire liaison officer and a **bush fire control officer, designated or appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act**, and, subject to subsection (1A), a member of the Police Force, is empowered to enter any land or building at any time to—
- (a) examine a fire which he has reason to believe has been lit, or maintained, or used in contravention of this Act;
 - (b) examine a fire which he believes is not under proper control;
 - (c) examine fire breaks on the land;**
 - (d) examine anything which he considers to be a fire hazard existing on the land;**
 - (e) investigate the cause and origin of a fire which has been burning on the land or building;
 - (f) inspect fire precaution measures taken on the land;**
 - (g) investigate and examine the equipment of a bush fire brigade;
 - (h) do all things necessary for the purpose of giving effect to this Act.**
- (1A) Despite subsection (1), a member of the Police Force is not empowered under this section to enter any land or building for any purpose other than those specified in subsection (1)(a), (b) and (e).

- (2) A bush fire liaison officer or a member of the Police Force exercising the power conferred by subsection (1)(e) may remove from the land or building, and keep possession of, anything which may tend to prove the origin of the fire.

5.03.25.01 HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS

Discussion on weather conditions and if they are adequate for the Shire of Brookton and clarification on what a harvest and vehicle movement ban means.

5.03.25.02 TOTAL FIRE BAN

What a total fire ban means to members and the community.

5.03.25.03 MITIGATION BURNING

Mitigation burning to take place for the Waste Disposal Site, Golf Club and site on Lennard Street, Brookton.

5.03.25.04 APPLIANCE MAINTENANCE – AFTER INCIDENT

At a recent incident, a fire appliance turned out with no water in tank.

- Ensure appliances are filled with water.
- Tyres damage, pressure.
- Pumps have fuel.
- Appliance is fuelled.

6.03.25 REPORTS

6.03.25.01 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – MURRAY HALL

6.03.25.02 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TRAVIS EVA

6.03.25.03 WEST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TIM EVANS

6.03.25.04 CENTRAL BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: ANTON DE LANGE

6.03.25.05 EAST BRIGADE – TRAVIS EVA

6.03.25.06 DFES

7.03.25 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER (CESM)

7.03.25.01 TRAINING UPDATE

7.03.25.02 CESM STATUS TABLE

Action	Task	Current Status	Comment
General Duties	Brookton Mitigation program 2024-2025	Current	37 new treatments approved total sum awarded \$350,150.00. Please refer to works program provided. Request for quote completed and sent to CEO for approval to send out to contractors. Location Maps completed. All new treatments mapped in fire mapper and pre photos taken with GPS time date etc on them. Request for tender completed and advertised and waiting for contractors to complete tender process before engaging a contractor. January progress report now completed and sent to DFES> multiple email reply's and information provided for contractors tendering on works. bush land to north of town near Brookton HWY traffic bridge burn prescription. bush land to west of tip burn prescription. made contact with main roads and will discuss further about burning road verge in this section. Traffic management plan completed and will forward to main roads. tendering process completed and council agender item created. contractor engagement within next week. Program reporting spreadsheet now completed.
	Shire of Brookton ESL 2024-2025 and Brigade purchases.	Current	Approved funding \$90,000.00. Truck maintenance completed and ready for fire season. New Brookton West fire shed cleaning products ordered and sent to Jenny for pick up. All fire trucks yearly service completed before fire season and B class service forms filled out and saved in shire system. Water purchased and delivered to central fire station, West fire station, and east fire truck. extra water purchased and delivered to central fire brigade and 10x packs to storage container. Foam delivered to west shed x10 and x5 to central shed. Hydrate sachets ordered and delivered to all 4 fire trucks. thermal image cameras delivered to west shed and central shed. Star link now installed in new west fire shed. new radio for west shed ordered and follow ups done with no success yet of installation will continue to follow up. Central fire truck brake down at Beverly fire organised for pick up and fixed. request for quote sent for PPE order for Graeme Elliott. PPE for West Brookton ordered and in process of being delivered. PO sent for PPE order. New PPE request came in and request for quotes have been requested.
	Shire of Brookton BFAC	Current	BFAC to be held 27th August. CESM report completed and sent to Sandie for agenda. BFAC has been set for March 25th 2025. Agenda items sent to Sandie.
	Shire of Brookton LEMC	Current	Shire of Brookton LEMC to be held 10th September. Communication exercise created and sent to Sandie for agenda.

Action	Task	Current Status	Comment
	Training Program	Current	<p>August 5th 6th Bushfire safety Awareness Corrigin, 13th 14th bushfire safety awareness Brookton, 19th 20th bushfire safety awareness Pingelly 29th 30th Bushfire safety awareness Aldersyde. September 3rd 4th firefighting skills Corrigin 9th 10th firefighting skills Brookton 16th 17th firefighting skills Pingelly 25th 26th Structural firefighting Aldersyde, October 2nd Rural Fire Awareness Corrigin x2, 7th rural fire awareness Brookton x2, 14th rural fire awareness Pingelly x2, 21st rural fire awareness Aldersyde.</p> <p>New options for online training have been produced and looking at changing training to this structure. Training courses cancelled until further notice. online training being created were possible. FCO course request sent to DFES to be created. ran rural fire awareness training shire of Corrigin works department. FCO competencies reports created for three shires and one member from Corrigin has been notified to do course. other two shires to be completed soon.</p>
	Shire of Brookton Brigade lists updates	Current	West Brookton members list updated and no correct. Central spreadsheet sent to captain and awaiting changes to be sent back for updating.
	Shires high seasonal fleet applications		Shire of Brookton application completed and sent off to Adam Whitford. Shire of Pingelly application completed and sent off to Adam Whitford. Shire of Corrigin will be done direct through VFRS as they will man LT if required. This will be managed through VFRS. High seasonal fleet now delivered and in fire sheds.
	Brigade meetings	Current	Pre season brigade meetings will commence end of September going into October. Pingelly Central AGM Monday 17th March 2025, West Brookton AGM Thursday 20th March 2025, East Pingelly AGM Wednesday 26th March 2025, West Pingelly AGM Thursday 27th March 2025.
	Shire of Brookton ESL 2025-2026 Submission	Current	2025-2026 ESL Flyer Distribution Requirements survey completed.

Action	Task	Current Status	Comment
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Brookton West BFB Shed		plans reviewed and suggested changes made through Kevin Project manager Brookton. Meeting with contractor to go over plans and suggested final changes. Construction of shed has started with concrete slab being installed. Shed well underway with all frames installed, roofs completed and cladding being finalised. Fast fill trailer shed now completed, water tank has been installed. Construction completed and fit out being organised. opening of shed to be held Friday 13th September. radio installations have been organised and will be installed Wednesday 5th March.
	Brookton East Fire Shed	Current	with shire to continue Site has been cleared. Under construction
Incidents 2024-2025	Incident 697023 - Brookton Corrigin road	Closed	farmer response extinguished no requirement of myself to attend.
	Incident 699200 - 223 Wilkinson Rd Kweda	Closed	2HA stubble fire extinguished with local crews no requirement for myself to attend.
	Incident 700926 - 2145 Bullaring road East Pingelly	Closed	stubble fire 30HA local crews extinguished no requirement for my attendance.
	Incident 702927 - Brookton Tip.	Closed	rubbish dumped the day before combusted and caused rubbish fire. VFRS took control due to Hazmat fire. Local crews and shire equipment used to extinguished. Support provided by myself onsite.
	Incident 705197 - Yealering-Kulin road Bullaring	Closed	bush fire caused by lightening. Local crews extinguished and no requirement of assistance from myself.
	Incident 705213 - Doyle rd Bullaring	Closed	stubble fire caused by lightening. Local crews extinguished with no requirement of assistance from myself.
	Incident 706713 - Brookton Corrigin road Corrigin	Closed	verge fire on side of road. Extinguished via local crews. No requirement of myself for this incident.



Bushfire Operations Committee Communique

Meeting date: Friday, 28th February 2025

Location: Geraldton Multipurpose Centre, Geraldton

ESL/LGGS updates

LGGS reform

Presentation by Assistant Commissioner Asset Management Peter Sutton

- An overview of the LGGS reform package was provided to the BOC. This package is currently being reviewed within DFES prior to stakeholder engagement.
- The package seeks to enhance the LGGS program, funding model, application of funding, governance and decision making, and performance reporting.
- Once finalised, the LGGS reform is intended to be run as a project over a two year period.
- A presentation will be given at BOC once the project is formalised.

LGGS Working Group

Presentation by BOC Deputy Chair Craig Stewart

- The working group have drafted an interim report which was circulated to the members.
- The report focuses on the five topics taken from the previous WALGA submission and audit reports. The recommendations from those reports are still current.
- Report common themes:
 - Inequities of overspend and underspend
 - The importance of the CESM role and their impact on outcomes and equity
- The members will provide feedback prior to finalising the report for escalation through DFES.

LGGS eligible items – Fast fill trailer specifications

Presentation by DFES Rural Fire Division Executive Director Murray Carter

- The BOC formed a working group to provide guidance in developing a minimum standard, noting the significant number of requests to fund fast fill trailers received and the variability in cost and specifications.
- The working group met in early February and a draft list of minimum specifications was agreed.
- At this meeting, members discussed the specifications list and options with a number of members providing comment on their region's current trailers and history of individual brigades resourcing.
- The BOC endorsed the list of minimum specifications for escalation back to DFES.

For BOC related information or enquiries please email Jo.Harding@dfes.wa.gov.au

July 2024

LGGS applications Great Southern regional trial

Presentation by Great Southern member Rob Lynn

- The Great Southern region has recently trialled a whole of region approach to Capital Grants applications with positive feedback and results.
- Once the concept was approved through the ROAC and Local Government (LG), a working group was established with a Terms of Reference to oversee and assist LGs with the process. The working group consisted of Chiefs and CESMs from across the region.
- The process included examining resources to identify gaps and then to rank priorities from a regional perspective.
- Checklists which aligned to the assessment criteria were circulated to LGs through CESMs.
- A regional LGGS endorsement subcommittee was nominated, and they evaluated and ranked the applications prior to submission.
- This approach improves the probability of successful submissions and identifies and informs of regional facility and appliance requirements to the region and the LGGS Capital Grants Committee.

CBFCO Forum 2025

Presentation by DFES Rural Fire Division Executive Director Murray Carter

- The BCoE propose to host a 3-day CBFCO forum in June 2025 at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, with a similar format to the previous forum.
- The forum will be open to all CBFCOs and will be encouraged to send a proxy if they are unable to attend.
- The forum will encourage collaboration across the CBFCO network by offering the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learnt.
- The forum aims to be an information sharing and professional development, rather than a decision-making forum.
- The BCoE propose to hold an online session in March 2025 to share the plans of the 2025 forum with the CBFCO cohort, encouraging attendance and exploring forum topics.

Starlink mini – availability request

Item raised by Mid-West Gascoyne member Ben Plozza

- Request information on the availability of Starlink mini kits through the LGGS.
- The US is currently shifting satellite to phones. Elon Musk has partnered with T-Mobile and are offering 6 months free access with immediate access for plan users, with no upgrade to phones with compatible hardware and settings.
- Optus will be the first Australian provider and are currently working with SpaceX, with rollout expected **this year**. Telstra are also working to the same plan.
- It is anticipated that Starlink kits will become obsolete in this process, with big changes over the next 6 months.
- With this huge shift about to take place, at this stage approval of Starlink kits will be on hold until more is known.

For BOC related information or enquiries please email Jo.Harding@dfes.wa.gov.au

July 2024

Doctrine support for Local Governments

Item raised by DFES Rural Fire Division Executive Director Murray Carter

- LG access to doctrine is currently being addressed. LG and WALGA identified an inability to access DFES doctrine, procedures and guidelines with the original issue being raised with access to the Volunteer hub.
- Communication to LG CEOs last year received positive feedback.
- This would allow a consistent approach across LGs including minimum training standards, noting Section 33 guidelines provide best practice.
- Members discussed concerns with minimum training standards
- A working group will be created from ROAC/DOACs, a representative WALGA and an LG CEO. Nominations will be sought from ROAC/DOACs.

The next BOC meeting will be scheduled for July 2025.

For BOC related information or enquiries please email Jo.Harding@dfes.wa.gov.au

July 2024



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



DFES General Circular No: 19/2025

File: 25/026697

11 February 2025

Aurora Fire Behaviour Calculator now includes Incident Weather Forecasts

Key Message

The Aurora Fire Behaviour Calculator provides enhanced situational awareness for planned burns and bushfire response. Outputs include graphed fire weather and behaviour metrics. Until now, these outputs have been based on the Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) Australian Digital Forecast Database (ADF) gridded weather. An enhancement released this week allows Bureau of Meteorology Registered Users to now also select the current Incident Weather Forecasts (IWF) for outputs.

What are the advantages?

The Aurora Fire Behaviour Calculator uses published fire behaviour models for the predominant bushfire vegetation types. Outputs include the fire weather forecast, fire behaviour index, potential rates of spread, fire line intensity, flame length and head fire direct attack considerations. The calculator is publicly available and mobile device friendly <https://aurora.landgate.wa.gov.au/fbc#!/>



IWFs are incident-specific forecasts issued by the BoM to assist emergency services with decision making when planning and undertaking bushfire operations. IWFs are provided upon request by emergency management agencies for bushfires, planned burns, structural fires, HAZMAT operations or for training purposes.



IWFs provide greater detail than the ADFD datasets alone, with additional text-based information on temporal and spatial uncertainty as well as forecasts tailored for local topography and other effects by fire weather meteorologists. An urgent IWF can be received within one hour of receiving the request. In contrast, the complete ADFD gridded forecasts are routinely updated twice per day in the early morning and afternoon.

What does it mean for me?

The option to select the current IWF data in the allows users to access and compare these site-specific forecasts with the ADFD and calculate key fire behaviour metrics. On the main menu of the Aurora Fire Behaviour Calculator BoM Registered Users can now chose to 'View Incident' and login to BoM Incident Weather using their BoM Registered User credentials. All current IWFs now appear in the 'Available Incidents' drop-down menu. Users can select the incident and calculate fire behaviour metrics using the default fuel type and model parameters or by defining their own.

For more information and advice, please contact Bushfire Technical Services on environment@dfes.wa.gov.au

JACKSON PARKER
DIRECTOR BUSHFIRE TECHNICAL SERVICES


afac  **Seasonal Bushfire Outlook**

Autumn | 2025



KEY:  Increased risk of fire

Figure 1 Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Autumn 2025. Areas are based on the interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia and other geographical features.

 **Increased risk of fire is the likelihood of an increased number of significant bushfires occurring in the outlook period compared to average.**

Overview

The Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for autumn 2025 identifies a heightened risk of fire for patchy areas between Perth and Carnarvon in WA, and stretching across most of the Australian mainland's southern coastline to southwest Gippsland in Victoria.

From August 2024 to January 2025, very much below average rainfall fell across much of the southern coastline of Australia. Rainfall patterns were average to above average across much of the remaining parts of WA and coastal Queensland.

In that same August to January period, mean temperatures for Australia were generally well above average with large areas recorded their warmest period on record. The area-averaged temperature for Australia was the highest on record since records began in 1910.

Looking ahead, an increased chance of above average rainfall has been forecast for parts of northwest Australia over autumn, while there is an increased chance of below average rainfall being forecast for parts of the northeast.

Temperatures are very likely to be above average across most areas, with an increased chance of unusually high maximum temperatures for most of Australia south of the tropics. There is an increased chance of unusually high minimum temperatures nationwide.

Communities are encouraged to be vigilant and stay alert this autumn, even in areas of Australia that show a normal risk of fire this season. Under the right fuel and weather conditions destructive fires can occur during normal bushfire seasons across Australia.

The Seasonal Bushfire Outlook combines expert analysis of bushfire fuels, past rainfall and temperature, and climate outlooks prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology.

About the Outlook

Fire management is a year-round process. The Seasonal Bushfire Outlook reflects the priorities in each state and territory for the coming months given the expected climate conditions. It identifies areas of increased risk of fire so communities are aware and primed to take appropriate action. It is not intended as a prediction of where and when bushfires will occur.

Fire risk can vary greatly, even at the smaller scale, between bordering states and territories. Each state and territory's assessment takes into account different land use types and vegetation types. This is influenced by different forecasts for temperature and rainfall over these regions. It should be noted that forecasting for longer time periods can be less accurate as the atmospheric system is dynamic; the more time passes, the less certain forecasters can be of its state.

A significant bushfire is defined as being of such size, complexity, duration or other impact that requires resources (from both a pre-emptive management and suppression capability) beyond the region in which fires originate. Increased bushfire risk depends on many factors including weather and climate, fuel amount and availability, recent fire and disturbance history, natural and human barriers, and how quickly and effectively firefighting resources are able to suppress fires in an area.

AFAC is the National Council for fire and emergency services, supporting the sector to create safer, more resilient communities. AFAC drives national consistency through collaboration, innovation and partnerships. It delivers enhanced capability by developing doctrine and supporting operations.

New South Wales



■ Increased risk of fire

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in New South Wales

Summary

- The rainfall forecast for early autumn is expected to maintain generally normal fire potential across most of NSW.
- Parts of northern and western NSW have high grass fuel loads and are currently drier than usual. These areas will remain at risk of difficult-to-control fires until they receive significant rainfall.

For further information see: rfs.nsw.gov.au

NSW experienced varied rainfall throughout spring, leading to increased grass and crop growth in some areas. Summer also saw mixed rainfall, with the northeast receiving high totals. However, a drier period in early summer led to several fires in eastern and northern NSW over the Christmas and New Year period.

Meanwhile, parts of the northwest slopes and far western NSW continue to receive below-average rainfall, leaving them drier than usual for this time of year.

Above-average rainfall is forecast for early to mid-autumn, which should generally maintain normal fire potential across most of NSW but may hinder prescribed burning efforts.

Autumn temperatures are expected to be higher than normal, increasing the risk that areas receiving little rainfall may remain dry or become drier. The northwest slopes (around Tamworth) and far western NSW currently have above-average grass fuel loads and are drier than usual. If these areas continue to miss out on rainfall, they could face challenging fire conditions.

Additionally, grasses west of the Great Dividing Range are dry (cured). Until these areas receive sufficient rainfall to support new grass growth, they could remain at risk for fast-moving, intense grass fires. ■

Australian Capital Territory



■ Increased risk of fire

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Australian Capital Territory

Summary

- There is a normal risk of bushfire expected for the ACT this autumn.
- The long-range outlook for autumn forecasts warmer than usual conditions with above average rainfall somewhat likely.
- Fire agencies and land managers will continue to implement mitigation activities during autumn where conditions allow.

For further information see: esa.act.gov.au

The ACT experienced above average rainfall in summer after dry conditions in winter and spring 2024. The rainfall has allowed continued grassland fuel growth. Despite increased fuel loads, the ACT can expect a normal risk of bushfires during autumn.

The long range outlook for autumn in the ACT forecasts above average, even unusually warm, day- and night-time temperatures. Above average rainfall is somewhat likely, but unusually wet weather is not likely.

If below average rainfall is received in the first part of autumn, with the increased fuel loads and warm conditions, there could be more risk of bush and grass fires.

To manage bushfire risk, fire agencies and land managers will continue to implement mitigation activities, including prescribed burns, physical removal, and grass slashing or grazing, throughout the season. ACT residents can keep track of planned and ongoing prescribed burns through the ACT Emergency Services Agency and ACT Parks and Conservation Service websites or the Hazards Near Me NSW app.

It is important for community members to continue to be emergency ready by maintaining the preparedness of their properties and creating or updating their survival plans. For information on how to prepare for bushfires, visit esa.act.gov.au.

By staying informed and prepared we can collectively work towards minimising the impact of potential bushfires. Let's prioritise safety and ensure a proactive approach to safeguarding our community and environment. ■

Victoria



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Victoria

Summary

- An increased risk of fire is indicated for the western and central parts of Victoria as well as south and west Gippsland during early autumn.
- Fire authorities will continue to monitor conditions for any changes in fire risk.

For further information see: emergency.vic.gov.au

Severe rainfall deficits over the last 12-to-24-month period have affected much of western and central parts of Victoria, where increased fuel availability in forests and heathlands has resulted in significant fires across the Grampians and the Little Desert. Central parts of Victoria and southeast Gippsland have shown a strong drying signal over the past year, resulting in increased vegetation drying.

Recent rainfall patterns have continued to follow the long-term drying trend, with January rainfall totals ranging from 50-100mm in the far east and less than 10mm in the far west. Most of southwest Victoria has experienced well below-average precipitation, while the remainder of Victoria has received average rainfall for January.

While the outlook has a higher chance of warmer maximum temperatures, the rainfall outlook does not indicate a wetter or drier signal in the forecast. As a result, an extended drying pattern may translate to continued increases in fuel availability in the west and central parts of the state. Without significant rainfall, the flammability of fuels in forests, woodlands and heathlands will remain high with elevated potential for fires to start and spread into early autumn. As a result, most of western and central parts of Victoria, along with south and west Gippsland, are identified as areas of increased risk during the early autumn outlook period.

Elsewhere across the state, the fire risk potential is assessed to be normal, noting that, at any time, areas dominated by dry or cured vegetation can support fast running fires under the onset of hot, dry and windy weather conditions. Landscape conditions will be monitored to identify any significant changes to fire risk.

The autumn break is likely to start slightly later than usual, which may delay the emergence of planned burning in some parts of the state while raising opportunities elsewhere to target areas that are not usually available for burning under autumn conditions. ■

Tasmania



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Tasmania

Summary

- Normal bushfire risk is expected for autumn.
- Grassland curing is well advanced across the state. Dry forests are available to burn in the east and parts of the west.
- An early commencement for planned burning is expected in the east and north of the state.

For further information see: fire.tas.gov.au

Tasmania experienced relatively quiet fire conditions during December and January as mild temperatures and moderate rainfalls generally slowed landscape drying and grassland curing across the island. There was not sufficient rain to recharge the underlying deep soil dryness in western Tasmania which has persisted for several years.

A short drying spell in late January increased the availability of wet and moist forest fuels as well as organic soils. A significant fire in the Snug Tiers in late January was followed by over 20 lighting ignitions on the West Coast in early February. The Western Complex of fires became a significant interagency campaign and is likely to require management for many weeks.

As summer ends, grassland curing is well advanced across the state and on the Bass Strait islands. Dry forests are fully available to burn in the eastern half of the state and to a lesser extent in the west. As a result, landscape connectivity is high in the east and along the northern coastal strip.

Autumn is unlikely to provide significant recharge of the underlying deep layer soil moisture and the peat in western Tasmania but there may be sufficient rainfall to moisten the upper soil layer which will assist fire suppression of any remaining going fires. An early commencement for planned burning is expected in the east and north of the state. ■

South Australia



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in South Australia

Summary

- SA enters autumn with below average rainfall across a majority of the state
- The forecast warm dry conditions create potential for a prolonged period of higher fire risk, extending well into autumn.
- There is a slightly elevated fire risk across the southern coastal parts of the state and the far northwest.

For further information see: dfs.sa.gov.au

After a very dry start to January, SA enters autumn with below average rainfall across a majority of the state, particularly western parts of Kangaroo Island, Mid North and Eastern Eyre Peninsula. Rain deficiencies are expected to abate as autumn progresses.

There is a very high likelihood of well above average temperatures continuing, especially in the southeast of the state.

Autumn rain is forecast to exceed averages in central and northern areas of the state, while the Upper Eyre, Mount Lofty Ranges and Yorke Peninsula are expected to receive below average rainfall.

The forecast warm dry conditions create potential for a prolonged period of higher fire risk, extending well into autumn, with a slightly elevated fire risk across the southern coastal parts of the state and the far northwest.

With the forecasted dry period extending into autumn, South Australians will need to remain vigilant, continue to maintain their properties, monitor the fire risks throughout their district and be prepared to enact their bushfire survival plan well into autumn. ■

Western Australia



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Western Australia

Summary

- Severe moisture deficits have increased fire risk in the Mallee, Esperance Plains, and Mardabilla Bioregions.
- Significant grass fuels and forecast warmer conditions have increased fire risk in the Nullarbor Bioregion.
- Moisture stress has increased fire risk in the southeastern part of Southwest Land Division, Lesueur Sandplains, and northern Swan Coastal Plain Bioregions.

For further information see: dfes.wa.gov.au

An average fire risk is expected for the Pilbara, Central Interior, and northern Kimberley due to broadly above-average root-zone soil moisture and forecast above-average rainfall for autumn. Moist conditions may limit early prescribed burning opportunities in northern parts of the Kimberley. However, in southern parts of the Kimberley with below-average root-zone soil moisture, fire risk may increase in woody fuels and spinifex due to higher flammability, while grazing and reduced growth are expected to mitigate fire risk for tussock grass fuels.

Increased fire risk is unlikely across inland areas of Midwest-Gascoyne due to recent and forecasted average to above-average rainfall and broadly average soil moisture. However, in the Geraldton Sandplains, Yalgoo, and southern Carnarvon bioregions, higher fuel availability and forecasted high temperatures may elevate fire risk in grassy woodlands. Moisture deficits in the Lesueur Sandplains and the northern Swan Coastal Plain contribute to increased fire risk.

The Nullarbor Bioregion faces an increased fire risk due to the persistence of significant grass fuel loads following the previous March floods. In addition, average to below-average rainfall and soil moisture deficits over the past six months, along with forecast warmer conditions, and a low probability of exceeding average rainfall contribute to the increased fire risk.

In the Mallee, Esperance Plains and Mardabilla (East Coolgardie) Bioregions, severe root-zone moisture deficits, combined with forecasted warmer conditions and a low likelihood of exceeding average rainfall, are expected to increase fire risk. Moisture deficits extend into the southeastern part of the Southwest Land Division, where increased flammability of moisture stressed woody vegetation has increased fire risk. ■

Queensland



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Queensland

Summary

- Normal levels of bushfire risk across Queensland for Autumn.
- Significant rainfalls in northern Queensland will produce grass growth across large areas.
- Current weather conditions provide clear opportunity for early season hazard reduction burning.

For further information see: fire.qld.gov.au

There are significant tracts of grasslands across Queensland, some of which have received record rains in late summer. This will contribute to above average grass growth and fuel accumulation in areas where there may have been limited fuel previously. In areas of the South East Coast, Wide Bay, Burnett, Darling Downs and Granite Belt regions, this rainfall was predominately been in early summer. Due to fast growth rates fuelled by above average temperatures, the grass remains green but has developed a large thatch layer of dry material which may help to fuel grass fires as conditions continue to dry out in these districts. This means it is important to closely monitor local conditions.

Recent record rain in northern Queensland means most fuel is unavailable for burning this autumn. However, these conditions may present opportunities to conduct hazard reduction burning in country that may have not been possible due to the risk, particularly in large scale landscapes away from major metropolitan centres.

In southern Queensland, conditions are favorable for mitigation to be undertaken during autumn. Rainfall seen across much of the state in summer may present opportunities for hazard reduction burning which may not have been possible in previous years.

Forested areas of the state remain wet and the risk of fire in these locations is significantly reduced during the outlook period, however there may be some opportunities for hazard mitigation burning for the forest areas of the state. Fire agencies will continue to work with landholders and Indigenous land management groups to ensure planning is coordinated during this critical mitigation period across the state. A more in-depth understanding of future risk areas for the 2025 fire season will be possible once the full extent of the late summer rainfall events is known. ■

Northern Territory



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn 2025 in Northern Territory

Summary

- The NT has a normal risk of bushfire for the outlook period.
- If a dry spell occurs, there is a risk of fires spreading in all areas with available fuel in central Australia.
- Higher fuel loads are concentrated southwest of Alice Springs, including the southern Tanami and Macdonnell regions.
- Landholders across the Territory are strongly encouraged to prepare their properties for ongoing fire risk.

For further information see pfes.nt.gov.au or [Bushfires NT](#)

Minimum temperatures across the Territory are expected to remain above median, with rainfall in the Barkly and Alice Springs Fire Management Zones ranging from average to slightly above average.

Soil moisture is forecast to be above average in the Savanna, southern Arnhem, Vernon Ararua, the western Tanami and eastern Barkly districts. Fuel curing in central Australia is between 75-90%, with fire dangers easing to moderate. Available fuels are mainly found in areas with low grazing pressure that have remained unburned for more than 12 months, due to cumulative rainfall and rapid regrowth of surface fuels, including buffel grass. Higher fuel loads are concentrated southwest of Alice Springs, in the Macdonnell and southern Tanami regions.

If a dry spell occurs in the forecast period, there is a risk of wildfires spreading across all areas with available fuel in Alice Springs and Barkly regions. However, the frequency and scale of these events are unlikely to lead to back-to-back campaign fires throughout the forecast period.

Conditions in April and May may be more favourable for bushfire mitigation burning across all regions in the NT. The monsoon's late arrival this year may disrupt burn programs in the Top End.

Landholders across NT are strongly encouraged to prepare their properties for ongoing fire risk, ensuring that fire management plans are up-to-date and all firefighting equipment is in working condition. In central Australia, fire activity is recurring, even in areas previously affected by last year's fires, so it's essential to monitor grass regrowth and perform regular maintenance. ■

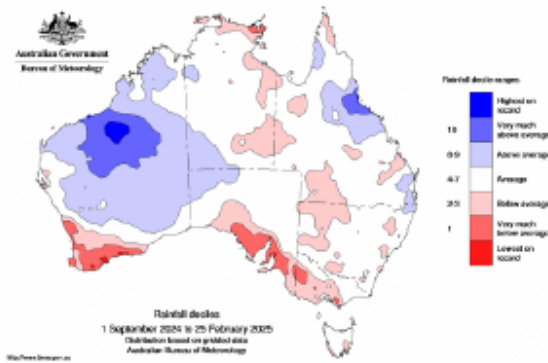


Figure 2a Spring–summer to date (1 September 2024 to 25 February 2025) rainfall deciles relative to all years since 1900.

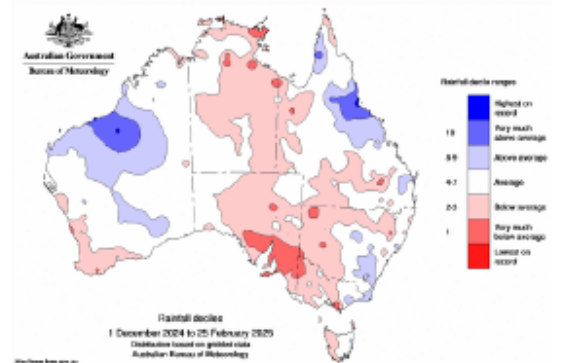


Figure 2b Month to date (1 to 25) February rainfall deciles relative to all years since 1900 [preliminary that includes forecast rainfall].

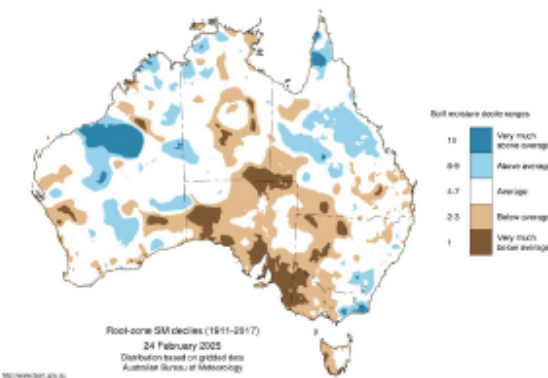


Figure 3 Latest root-zone soil moisture (top 100 cm) deciles, at 24 February, relative to average soil moisture on this date for all years between 1911 and 2017.

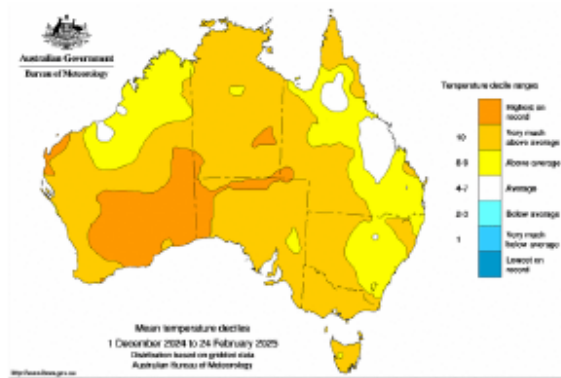


Figure 4 Summer to date (1 December 2024 to 24 February) mean temperature deciles relative to all years since 1910.

The risk of grass fires and bushfires in Australia is dependent on many factors, including the amount and type of fuel (vegetation), and the dryness of the fuel. Fuel conditions are influenced by recent rainfall, temperatures, and soil moisture.

Rainfall for the six-month period from September 2024 to February 2025 was below to very much below average¹ over the southern mainland, from the southwest of WA to southern SA and the west and south of Victoria (Figure 2a) with serious or severe rainfall deficiencies (rainfall totals in the lowest 5% or 10% of periods, respectively, since 1900) persisting in these regions. Below average rainfall was also seen over some inland parts of the mainland's east and north.

Rainfall was above to very much above average for most of northern and central WA, extending into central Australia. Above average rainfall was also observed over the central Queensland coast and the far northern NSW coast to the southeastern Queensland coast.

Summer to date rainfall has been average to below average for much of the country with the main exceptions being WA's northern Pilbara and Queensland's central coast where Tropical Cyclone Zelia and a deep tropical low, respectively, brought heavy falls in late January and early February (Figure 2b).

Areas northeast of Port Hedland and around Townsville have exceeded their highest monthly totals on record for the month of February. Drier than average conditions have persisted in the south, while a delayed onset to the monsoon has contributed to drier than average conditions over the NT.

Soil moisture as at 24 February 2025 is below average for this time of year across much of SA, extending into central Australia, western NSW, and western and central Victoria (Figure 3). Soil moisture is above to very much above average for eastern Victoria, southeastern NSW, much of northern and central Queensland, and parts of northern and central WA.

The mean temperature for 2024–25 summer to date has been very much above average for most of Australia with some western and central areas in Australia on track to see their warmest summer on record. Maximum and minimum temperatures have also been above to very much above average for most of Australia, although maximum temperatures were close to average over WA's northern Pilbara and Queensland's central coast, where heavy rainfall events occurred (see earlier section on rainfall).

The Bureau of Meteorology's long-range forecasts are based on global dynamical modelling of the oceans, atmosphere, land surfaces and sea ice. The model simulates the evolution in the state of the atmosphere and oceans for coming months. It implicitly captures climate indicators including the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), as well as long-term trends due to climate change.

For March to May 2025 (Figure 5) there is an increased chance of above average¹ rainfall for the northern Kimberley and parts of the Top End of the NT. There is an increased chance of below average rainfall for most of central and northern Queensland, extending into central Australia. For most other parts of Australia, there is no strong signal suggesting above or below average rainfall over the forecast period.

For central and northern Queensland, the likelihood of below average rainfall is greater in March than in April or May, with rainfall in April and May more likely to be within the typical range for those months.

Both maximum (Figure 6) and minimum temperatures during March to May are very likely (greater than 80% chance) to be above average across most states and territories. There is an increased chance of unusually high maximum temperatures across much of Australia, with the highest chances in Tasmania, southern Victoria, west of the Pilbara, and the southern half of Queensland extending into northern NSW and central Australia, where the likelihood is at least 3.5–4 times the usual chance. The chance of unusually high minimum temperatures is 3–4 times the usual chance for most of Australia, and greater than 4 times the usual chance for parts of WA, the far tropical north, and eastern Australia.

For March, below average soil moisture is forecast for much of Australia (Figure 7). Above average soil moisture is forecast for interior parts of the mainland's west. In May, average soil moisture is likely for most of the country, except for parts of the Top End of the NT, where soil moisture is likely to be above average, and southern and interior parts Australia, where soil moisture is likely to be below average.

The Bureau's long-range forecasts are updated regularly and are prepared for seasonal, monthly, fortnightly and weekly periods. In addition to forecasts on rainfall and temperature, they include forecasts on the Indian Ocean Dipole and El Niño–Southern Oscillation. The Bureau's long-range forecasts are published at www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead and <https://awo.bom.gov.au/>

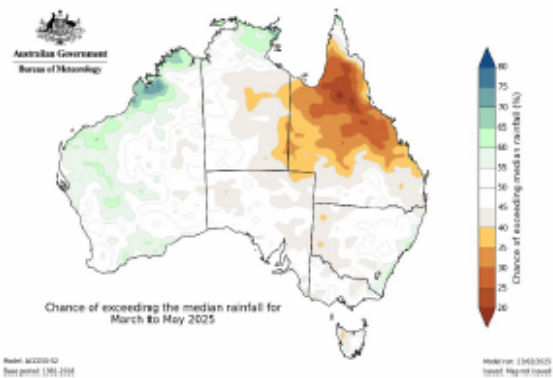


Figure 5 March to May 2025 chance of above median rainfall.

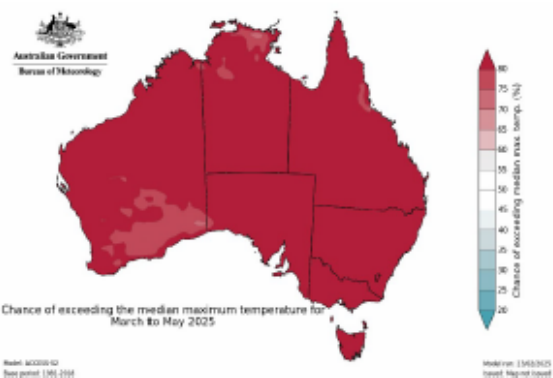


Figure 6 March to May 2025 chance of exceeding median maximum temperatures.

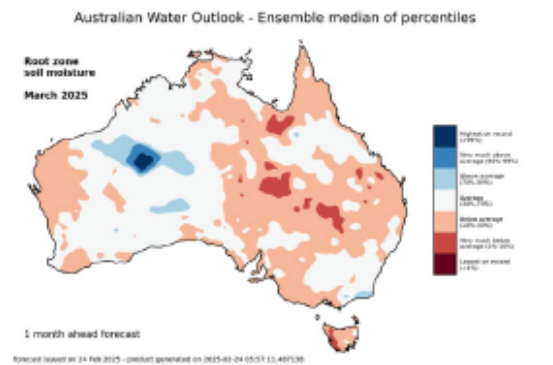


Figure 7 March 2025 soil moisture outlook.

1. The term 'average' is used throughout the text to denote either mean or median. The method used for a particular variable is stated in the relevant figure.

Waters around most of the Australian coastline are warmer than average, particularly along the western and southern coasts, contributing to increased atmospheric moisture and energy that may influence the intensity and frequency of weather systems. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the Australian region during January 2025 were the warmest on record for all Januarys since records began in 1900. Additionally, the January SST anomaly was the equal highest positive anomaly on record for any month.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation contributed to enhanced tropical activity in the Australian region in early to mid-December and again in late January and early February. This season's monsoon onset was the latest since records began in 1957–58, and it coincided with an active MJO over the Australian region.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral, despite changes in sea surface temperature patterns during 2024 that were consistent with a developing La Niña. Since late December, the tropical Pacific has become more La Niña-like, with signs of interactions between oceanic and atmospheric indices. However, these interactions have not been consistently sustained and do not meet the Bureau's La Niña criteria. Model forecasts indicate ENSO is likely to return to a more neutral ENSO state by the end of autumn and persist at neutral levels through to at least the middle of 2025.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral. The IOD typically has little association with Australian climate from December to April.

Australia's climate has warmed by 1.55 ± 0.25 °C between 1910 and 2024. This warming is consistent with global trends, with the degree of warming similar to the global average for land areas.

The background global warming trend means Australia will experience ongoing changes to its weather and climate, including:

- more heat extremes, and fewer cold extremes
- reduced average cool season (April to October) rainfall over the southern half of the continent
- more intense heavy rainfall events, even in regions where average rainfall has decreased
- a longer fire season, with more dangerous fire weather days.

Further information

For further information about climate forecasts and conditions, please visit the following pages

- bom.gov.au/climate/ahead
- bom.gov.au/weather-services/fire-weather-centre/fire-weather-services
- www.bom.gov.au/climate/about/australian-climate-influences.shtm

This Seasonal Outlook was developed by AFAC, the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire Department, NSW Rural Fire Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Country Fire Authority, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action VIC, Tasmania Fire Service, SA Country Fire Service, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions WA, and Bushfires NT.

9.03.25 NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The next BFAC Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 27th August 2025 at the East Brookton Fire Station, Aldersyde.