



Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Hearing Date: 6 December 2023

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Hon Harriet Shing MLC (*Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) response.*)

Received Date: 7 February 2024

9. Samantha RATNAM

Question Asked:

Minister, you mentioned the flood study work that the state government assists local councils with undertaking. We have had many Councils calling for some statewide coordination of the flood plain overlay process to ensure that there is consistency across the state and timeliness given each overlay can take years for a Council to complete and may not adequately address or account for neighbouring LGA. Will the state government play a stronger role to coordinate the statewide flood plain overlay process? Or move towards state wide flood plain overlays so that communities can be better prepared via land use planning for future extreme climate events?

Response:

If requested by the Government, the department would consider a more statewide approach. Noting that the State Government is, see response to question 10 above, already providing support to councils to accelerate the process and to implement completed flood studies into planning schemes.

At this stage, there has been no formal request from State Government to adopt a statewide amendment approach to include updated flood studies in planning schemes.

A statewide approach to managing bushfire risk through the planning and building system was adopted in response to recommendations made by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

In the building system, designated bushfire prone areas are shown on the Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) Map. The Minister for Planning makes a formal determination to designate Bushfire Prone Areas under section 192A of the Building Act 1993. This determination is based on a detailed review process.

The department works with local councils, emergency services and other

key stakeholders to ensure the map is accurate and as up-to-date as possible. The map is reviewed twice a year. The BPA hazard mapping is reviewed every six months. The department reviews sites as requested by developers and councils where development is about to commence.

In the planning system bushfire management overlay (BMO) mapping was updated in planning schemes across Victoria on 3 October 2017, via amendment GC13. The amendment was prepared by the Minister for Planning and ensured the bushfire hazard is accurately mapped using consistent mapping criteria. The criteria provides consistency in the way the hazard is mapped and transparency for landowners and councils on the application of the overlay.

The BMO is also reviewed every six months to ensure that mapping of the overlay remains relevant, accurate and commensurate with the level of bushfire hazard. Further information about the BPA Map and BMO reviews is available on DTP's website at:

[Bushfire mapping and reviews \(planning.vic.gov.au\)](http://planning.vic.gov.au)