

2013-14 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee – Budget Estimates Hearings

Hon. Mr Kim Wells MP

Minister for Bushfire Response

Portfolio Area

- Committed to implementing all the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission's recommendations
- Bushfires Royal Commission Implementation Monitor



Bushfires Royal Commission Implementation Monitor

- *“Implementing the Government’s Response to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission May 2011”*
- As at July 2012, 37 recommendations complete
- *“... the State has made very good progress in meeting its commitments under the Implementation Plan.”* Implementation Monitor Final Report, July 2012
- Extension of Implementation Monitor role for two years.

Recommendation 1 – Bushfire Safety Policy

- Emergency Alert Location Based System
- New sirens policy
- Automated fire danger rating signs
- Revised Bushfire Safety Policy Framework



Recommendation 3 – Helping Municipal Councils

- Community Information Guides
- Vulnerable People Program
- Municipal Fire and Emergency Management Resourcing Program
- Fire Ready Communities Program

Recommendation 4 – Shelter Options

- Neighbourhood Safer Places
- Community Fire Refuges



Recommendation 22 – Emergency Services Communications

- Completion of Regional Radio Dispatch System
- The Emergency Alert pager dispatch system
- Emergency Services Communications Masterplan (ESCM)



Recommendation 46 – Buy-Back Scheme

- A total of one hundred and ninety-eight applications were received and assessed by the Bushfire Land Acquisition Panel.
- One hundred and thirty eight of those applications were eligible and proceeded to valuation
- To date, one hundred and sixteen landowners have agreed to proceed with the sale of their property .
- Phase 2 is now complete.

Recommendation 63 – Fire Services Commissioner

- Fire Services Reform Program and Action Plan
- Information interoperability blueprint
- Dandenong Ranges Landscape Planning pilot
- State Control Centre

Recommendation 64 – Fire Services Property Levy

- A fair contribution
- Resourcing for fire services
- Abolishing the ‘tax on tax’ process
- Fire Services Levy Monitor

Further Response to the Royal Commission

- Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce (Recommendations 27 and 32)
- Deliberately Lit Fires (Recommendations 35 and 36)
- Planning and Building (Recommendations 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45 and 52)
- Land and Fuel Management (Recommendations 56 – 61)

Completed Recommendations

REC. 2 – Community bushfire safety education	REC. 5 – Approach to evacuation
REC. 8 – Level 3 Incident Controllers	REC. 9 - level 3 incident management team joint training exercises
REC. 10 - Victoria Police coordination functions	REC. 14 – Amendments to AIIMS
REC. 15 – Incident Action Plans	REC. 17 – Accreditation Level 3 Incident Controllers
REC. 18 – Appointment of Incident Controller	REC. 19 – Volunteer identification card
REC. 23 – Black spots in radio coverage	REC. 24 – Investigating safety incidents
REC. 25 – Training in back-burns	REC. 28 – Electricity Distribution businesses asset inspection standards and procedures
REC. 29 - Electricity Distribution businesses training and auditing of asset inspectors	REC. 30 – Hazard trees – regulatory framework amended

Completed Recommendations

REC. 31 – Hazard trees – in municipal fire prevention plans	REC. 32 – Changes to reclose functions on automatic circuit reclosers
REC. 33 - Electricity Distribution businesses identify and address clashing lines	REC. 34 – Amend regulatory framework for electricity safety
REC. 35 – Coordinated statewide approach to arson prevention	REC. 36 – National Action Plan to Reduce Bushfire Arson
REC. 38 – Regional settlement policy	REC. 39 – Amend Victoria Planning Provisions
REC. 41 – Native vegetation removal	REC. 44 – Fire resistant landscape and garden design
REC. 47 –Standards on Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone areas	REC. 48 –Performance requirements in Building Code of Australia
REC. 50 – Bushfire sprinklers and sprayers standards	REC. 51 – Community and industry information program on bushfire safety building issues

Completed Recommendations

REC. 52 – Municipal sign off of permit conditions under the Bushfire Prone Overlay	REC. 54 – Chief Officer to delegate power to issue fire prevention notices
REC. 55 – Education and training programs to improve understanding of bushfire risk management in building and planning regimes	REC. 58 – Monitor and model effects of prescribed burning programs
REC. 60 – Roadside vegetation management exemption	REC. 61 – Guidance on resolution of regulator impediments on roadside vegetation management
REC. 63 – Fire Services Commissioner	