



Sandra Whight
CHAIR

A message from the Chair

Welcome to the first SFMC newsletter for 2026! The year is already moving quickly with Easter upon us. This is the perfect time to outline the latest developments on what's been happening across the SFMC.

The SFMC met in February with the TFES Reform team to discuss the SFMC Terms of Reference. A first draft has been circulated to members for review and comment. See an update on the TFES Reform in this newsletter.

SFMC met with Wise Lord Ferguson to review the Strategic Directions Framework. A report was received in the new year, and the strategic pillars are now being discussed and reviewed with members.

SFMC had their first Ordinary' meeting in March. The Chair acknowledged the significant time and effort contributed by TFS Planners and FMAC Chairs in preparing their reports for SFMC.

The Red Hot Tips Advisory Group had their first meeting in March. The A/Chair and RHT Coordinator are working hard to establish nominations for 4 new members.

The Red Hot Tips team have been working hard attending shows statewide, building community engagement, planning workshops and working with landholders.

Regardless of treatment, Red Hot Tips staff continue to focus on the message: "What is the objective, and is it achievable and/or viable?"

On behalf of the SFMC, I would like to thank all FMAC members for your continued support.

EXCITING NEWS
Hobart 2026
28 April - 1 May 2026

FMAC Movements

Welcome to:



WEST COAST FMAC

Ella Dixon - Circular Head Council
(replacing Bill Walker)

Peter Porch - Burnie City Council
AND new West Coast FMAC Chair
(replacing Raymond Mee)



INTERNATIONAL
**FIRE BEHAVIOUR +
FUELS CONFERENCE**
Hobart, Tasmania
28 April-01 May, 2026

Details here:

<https://firebehaviorandfuelsconference.com>



See the FMAC Profile on Peter

FMAC PROFILE

Peter Porch

Chair - West Coast FMAC



Peter is working for the third time in 23 years for Burnie Council. His new role is Executive Manager Works & Infrastructure with Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator delegation.

Since coming to local government Peter has worked in various roles in Infrastructure here and interstate with 12 months as an Acting General Manager before returning to Burnie over the summer.

In 2015 studied Governance in an MBA and focussed on the Fire

Service Act 1979 FMAC arrangements and tenure blind approaches to fire management.

This is Peter's second time as Chair for the West Coast FMAC with broad Emergency Management experience in Local Government for the last 14 years.

Peter's favourite quote:

"Give me ambiguity or give me something else."

In Peter's spare time he is a fair weather motorcyclist and acoustic rhythm guitarist in a church music team.



Covenants and Burning?

This is a question we see frequently in the Red Hot Tips engagement space.

The Red Hot Tips team enjoyed a meet and greet with the new staff from the Private Land Conservation Program this week.

Having a covenant does NOT automatically mean you cannot burn, it may mean there are more prescriptions that need to be applied.

If you have a covenant in the Private Land Conservation Program and want to look at using fire as a land management tool on your property you will need to contact:

Ann Hamilton 0418 545 970

privatelandconservation@nre.tas.gov.au



Mosaic burn to meet regeneration objective



Post burn follow up by a Red Hot Tips member



Higher fuel and soil moisture results in grassland

Once prescriptions are set and the use of fire is approved the Red-Hot Tips team is here to assist and guide you through the planned burning process like any other property.

Red Hot Tips contacts:

Facilitator North/NW - Andrew Crowden 0408 995 156
andrew.crowden@fire.tas.gov.au

Facilitator South - Frank Bishop 0459 908 539
Frank.Bishop@fire.tas.gov.au

Coordinator - Sam Tacey 0417 153 620

Sam.Tacey@fire.tas.gov.au / RedHotTips@fire.tas.gov.au

Note all photos taken by by STacey

Update on TFES Reforms

Throughout late 2025 and early 2026, further work to progress the reforms have continued.

This includes:

- Development and review of new **principles-based legislation** (draft Bill) **and regulations** with subject matter experts.
- Design and development of the TFES governance structure, comprising of a new skills-based **State Fire and Emergency Services Commission** and its sub-committees, along with supporting documentation including a Commission Charter, Terms of Reference, recruitment and appointment procedures.
- Drafting of a draft **Volunteer Charter**.
- Preparation of a new process to issue and manage **Infringement Notices for TFES relevant offences**.

As part of this work, extensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted, including regular meetings with the internal TFES Working Group, Unions and Volunteer Associations (representing employed and volunteer members of the TFS and SES) and with the State Fire Management Council.

The new draft Bill will be sent to Cabinet for approval in the first quarter of 2026 before being released for public consultation. **Once available, you can find a copy on our website: www.fire.tas.gov.au/reform/.**

For further information, to register for updates on the reforms or **to request a briefing by the project team, please contact TFES@dpfem.tas.gov.au.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

For your diary

Fire Australia 2026,

5 - 7 May 2026

Melbourne, Victoria

Aerial Firefighting Series: Asia-Pacific Conference & Exhibition

22-23 July 2026

Gold Coast, Queensland

AFAC26

18-21 August 2026

Melbourne, Victoria

Bushfire season

It is never too late to prepare

It is essential communities assist in taking steps to protect properties and families from the threat of bushfire.

If you haven't done so already please:

- Prepare a bushfire plan
- Clean up your garden
- Make an emergency kit
- Plan to leave early.

Head to bushfire.tas.gov.au to create your Bushfire Plan and download a copy of the Bushfire Safety Guide

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act Reform)

The Australian Government's Environment Protection Reform Bills were passed by the Australian Parliament on Friday 28 November 2025.

Once fully implemented, the reforms will deliver:

1. **stronger** environmental protection and restoration
2. **more efficient** and robust project assessments
3. **greater accountability** and transparency in decision making.

For further information — including details on commenced provisions: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/epbc-act-reform>