



Sandra Whight
CHAIR

A message from the Chair

The SFMC held their second ordinary meeting in June (3rd meeting for 2026). The third ordinary meeting will be held in September.

Key updates from the SFMC since our last newsletter are:

We welcomed Emma Gardner to the role of SFMC Manager until December. Emma is on secondment from her position as Southern Regional Emergency Management Coordinator for Southern Tasmania.

The Council formally endorsed the SFMC Strategic Directions Framework. The endorsed framework will guide the Council's priorities and work into the coming years.

The Tasmanian Vegetation Fire Management Policy has been finalised and noted by the State Emergency Management Committee. The Policy is ready for review by the Minister.

The Council endorsed the Terms of Reference for two working groups:

- Time-Limited Machinery Operations Guidelines Working Group with two meetings scheduled in August and;
- the Fire Management to Practice Working Group

John Atkinson of TasFarmers and SFMC member, is kindly acting in the role of Chair - Red Hot Tips Advisory Group (RHTAG) whilst the recruitment process is in place. The RHTAG held a program update meeting in March with the strategic component postponed until the next meeting proposed for September.

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

SFMC Profile

Emma Gardner

A/Manager - SFMC

Emma first started with TFS in 2003 as a volunteer firefighter with the Lenah Valley Brigade and full time as a community engagement officer with the then fuel reduction unit in 2016.

Prior to starting with TFS/SES Emma worked in local government as an Environmental Health Officer concentrating on complaint investigation and emergency management.

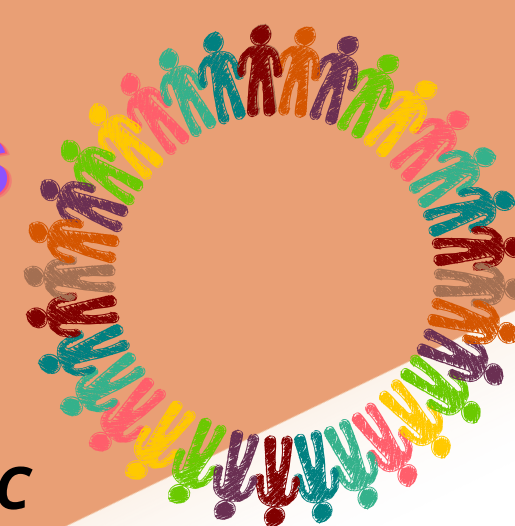
The last ten years Emma has worked across TFS and SES on various projects and incident responses including the 2018-19 bushfires, the community flood planning pilot project, the COVID-19 response, 2022 and 2024 floods, and the 2025 West Coast bushfires.



FMAC Movements

Welcome to:

Graeme Midgley
CENTRAL NORTH FMAC
TFS Brigade representative
(replacing Neville Bingham)



FMAC meetings Round 2

North East - Tamar

Tuesday 6 October 2026

King Island

Tuesday 13 October 2026

Central Nth - West Coast

Tuesday 20 October 2026

Flinders Island

Tuesday 27 October 2026

East Coast - Midlands

Tuesday 3 November 2026

Hobart - Southern

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP)

The Private Land Conservation Program (PLCP) has been reviewing fire authorisations as part of contemporising program activities and ensuring focus on core activities and relevant skill sets.

For most landowner queries, burn advice is best obtained through the Red Hot Tips program. For prescribed burns, fire managers should follow standard process.

As part of PLCP focus on core activities, PLCP will not sit on FMACs.

For any queries relating to specific covenants, please contact privatelandconservation@nre.tas.gov.au

Some general updates about the work of the PLCP are provided here.

New covenant policies

Conservation covenants are intended to safeguard Tasmania's unique plants, animals, habitats, and landscapes for generations to come. The PLCP has recently released some covenant policies intended to provide guidance for establishing new conservation covenants in Tasmania. **The policies should be read in conjunction with one another.**

The Covenant Design Policy has important considerations for bushfire planning and access tracks. The policies are available at [Covenant Policies | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#)



30 x 30 challenge

The PLCP team is joining global commitments for 30% of land and sea into conservation by 2030 - known as the 30x30 target.

The 30x30 target is part of United Nations Global Biodiversity Framework efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity across the planet.

Approximately 50.4% of Tasmania's land extent is already reserved. PLCP's contribution to the 30x30 target is an additional 2,500 hectares / 30 properties into conservation by July 2027 with a strong focus on under-protected habitat for threatened species and communities.

Funding from the Commonwealth Australian Government's Protecting Important Biodiversity Areas program has been vital for PLCP to build momentum for tackling the 30x30 target, as well as contemporise systems for oversight of the existing 115, 4 00 hectares and 9 71 properties already part of the Tasmanian private reserve estate.

New property signs

"Order signs or get more details on the: [Private Land Conservation Program signage website](#)."

The Private Land Conservation Program has new free property signs for covenant landowners. Many conservation covenant landowners are proud of the commitment they've made to protect nature.

A "Private Conservation Area" sign on the front gate is a symbol of this pride. For other parts of the property

"Please Keep Out" signs can be helpful to deter access. These new signs have holes in corners and can be attached with cable ties, screws or nails.



Bushfire-Ready Challenge

The new 2026 Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire-Ready Challenge is coming this Spring!

This completely online experience will challenge you across 4 weeks, prompting you to:

- understand your bushfire risk
- create a bushfire plan, complete a property assessment
- put together an emergency kit, and
- most importantly keep your household safe!



Register now and ensure you're ready for the bushfire season.

[Bushfire-challenge/bushfire-ready-challenge](#)

Why not invite others? Share this message and encourage friends and family to register to increase their bushfire safety knowledge and strengthen our community's preparedness.



Planned burn workshop - Triabunna

New and existing landowners recently took part in a planned burn workshop at Triabunna.

Which also included a training burn, but as we keep preaching “only burn in safe conditions” meant the burn was postponed by a day to be within safe prescriptions.

It was a great example of a landowner being prepared with :

- Completed plan/s
- Covenant permits acquired
- Preparatory works completed
- Neighbours and communications completed
- And made burning their on-property priority!

They rang and registered the burn with FireComm 👍



Happy Landowner

Red Hot Tips was able to run boots on ground/on tools training with the first block, then mentor and support the group for blocks two and three.

This gave participants hands on experience in lighting strategies and techniques, watching, and using these techniques to best control fire on the ground.



SE Test burn

Update on TFES Reforms

The draft Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service Bill 2026 is now open for consultation until Friday, 9 October 2026.

The Bill is an important step in implementing the Government's proposed reforms to:

- bring the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) together under one organisational banner, the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service (TFES);
- establish in legislation the role of the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner as the operational lead of the TFES;
- establish the State Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SFESC) as the statutory authority to oversee the TFES and FES Commissioner, with a skills-based board;
- continue the TFES as an operational pillar of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management; and
- establish a volunteer charter in legislation.

The SFMC will be legislated as a subcommittee of the SFESC and continue to perform the functions it currently has, including the oversight of FMACs.

FMACS are not addressed in the TFES Bill. Details on matters such as functions, membership, and the operation of FMACs will be included in the SFMC Terms of Reference and addressed in the Regulations. This would ensure that stakeholders would continue to be required to meet under the new legislation and collaborate to strategically manage local bushfire risks.

The TFES Project Team has worked closely with the SFMC to develop draft Terms of Reference and looks forward to continued engagement across the consultation period as the Regulations are further developed.

A copy of the draft Bill, associated consultation materials and information on how to provide feedback is available on the [TFS website/SES website](#).

For your diary

AFAC26

18 - 21 August 2026

Melbourne Convention &
Exhibition Centre

<https://www.afaconference.com.au/>

NATIONAL BUSHFIRE CONFERENCE

27-29 October 2026

Coffs Harbour, NSW

[National Bushfire Conference](#)

MULTI-AGENCY BUSHFIRE SEASON BRIEFING 26-27

10 September 2026

Tramsheds
Invermay - Launceston

FIRE SAFETY CONFERENCE

2 - 3 December 2026

Sydney

[Biological ecological and
environmental sciences](#)

