

North Australia Fire Managers Forum

Terms of Reference

June 2014

Purpose of the Group

The tropical north of Australia are one of the most fire-prone regions on earth with over 37,000,000 hectares being burnt annually. In practical terms however, most fire management policy and practice in Australia is generated in the southern jurisdictions, due to the profound impacts of fires on areas of higher population density and economic activity.

Accepting these practical realities, but recognising that a great deal of southern Australian fire management policy and practice is poorly matched to the needs of northern Australia, the North Australia Fire Managers Forum (NAFMF) was established in 1999. The functions of the NAFMF are to assist key decision makers involved in fire management in northern Australia to:

- access relevant, up-to-date information and research outcomes;
- share information across jurisdictions and between agencies;
- identify issues of mutual importance and interest and, where appropriate, to act collectively on those issues; and
- promote the understanding of fire in northern Australia, and the role that fire plays in achieving land management objectives.

The NAFMF provides direct advice from fire management agencies to the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and other research and information providers and partner agencies.

The NAFMF concentrates on fire management as it relates to the savanna regions of Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia. Typically, 80% or more of the area affected by wildfire in Australia every year lies within this region.

Objective

To identify, develop and promote best-practice fire management tailored to the needs of northern Australian communities and environments.

Membership

Core Members

Core members of the NAFMG are:

- the senior officers with responsibility for fire management in the northern (savanna) regions from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (QPWS), Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA, Department of Parks and Wildlife WA, Bushfires NT; NT Fire and Rescue Service and Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC.

Attendance by Invitation

For each meeting of the NAFMF, invitations may be extended by Core Members to the following:

- Representatives of relevant fire and land management agencies in each of the jurisdictions, particularly when the meeting is to be held in that jurisdiction;
- Participants in major, cross jurisdictional fire management projects or other activities of interest to the NAFMF members; or
- Representatives of other agencies or organisations may be invited at the suggestion of NAFMF members.

Operation of the NAFMG

The NAFMF will normally be held up to twice annually, alternating between Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

A nominated agency from the host jurisdiction will be responsible for organising the venue and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC will organise the agenda.

The forum will be chaired by the CEO, Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, or delegate.

The CRC will cover forum costs (refreshments), but not the field trip costs unless otherwise agreed prior to the meeting.

Each participating organisation will meet travel and accommodation expenses for their own personnel.

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed every two years.