

Abstract for Poster

Title: A Framework for Bushfire Management Planning

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Fire Management Planning is often confounded as a result of piecemeal planning or an inability to bring all the facets of fire management into a manageable format to adequately balance the individual components that comprise a fire plan. GHD has been successfully implementing fire plans using a 'Framework' approach that is applicable to local, state and national bushfire management circumstances. The Framework was a predecessor to "The 5Rs: a risk-management framework for bushfires" outlined in the Council of Australia Governments (COAG 2004) National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management: Research, information and analysis; Risk modification; Readiness; Response; and Recovery, and has since been modified to reflect the language changes initiated by the COAG report.

The Framework also incorporates the risk management mitigation principles of AS/NZS 4360 – 2004, as outlined in the COAG report, and places an emphasis on the systematic information gathering and analysis of risks prior to management decision-making. This critical step is often poorly understood and is usually undertaken insufficiently during the preparation of bushfire management plans. The Framework approach assists to alleviate this oversight.

The Framework approach considers "Adaptive Management" process through performance measures and monitoring processes, which are now improving and evolving into more complete whole of organisation approach. Traditionally, performance measures were developed at the end of the planning process, however, using a Framework approach the process allows the planner to develop a more complete and balanced fire plan that considers performance measures from the outset.

The Framework approach to developing plans of fire management can be scaled up and down to fit the circumstance. The critical components of benefit that the Framework approach brings is a holistic plan that is initiated with information analysis using the Risk Management Standard as the point of reference, develops a plan structured on the 5R's principles outlined in the COAG report, and completes the cycle with an adaptive management Performance Measurement system.

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