

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 12

24 October 2025

Question No. 706

Ms Fiona Carrick MLA: To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services –

1. Did the Multi-Hazard Advisory Council provide written advice during the preparation of Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) version 5.
2. What aspects of any advice provided by the Multi-Hazard Advisory Council were incorporated into SBMP version 5.
3. What aspects of any advice provided by the Multi-Hazard Advisory Council were not incorporated into SBMP version 5 and why.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1-3. The Multi-Hazard Advisory Council (the Council) had the opportunity to provide both written and verbal feedback on the draft Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 5 (SBMPv5).

The Council had the opportunity to provide comments in the development of the document that was circulated for public consultation. A series of consultative forums with the Council occurred to gain insights and feedback directly from Council Members. Additionally, the Director of the SBMPv5 project presented to the Council on several occasions at their monthly meetings where Council Members had the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on the document to be circulated for public comment directly to the project officer. In addition, the Chair of the Council was invited to be an observer on the SBMP Governance Committee.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) received written advice from Council on the initial draft of SBMPv5 in a letter dated 13 December 2024. The comments were around the intent of SBMPv5, legislative requirements, the impact of bushfire, actions proposed in SBMPv5, and cultural burns.

At the request of the Council, the ESA Commissioner also met with three Council Members to hear the comments directly. Following this meeting, a written response was then provided to the Council on 8 January 2025 advising how their comments would be considered, along with those of other stakeholders, prior to a final version that would be released for public consultation.

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After the draft SBMPv5 was circulated for public comment, Council Members then had another opportunity to provide comments through the formal public consultation process, including through the public consultation forums conducted for SBMPv5. One Council Member provided written comments as an individual, around legislative compliance, existing and planned bushfire strategies, bushfire risk planning and land management, and SBMP implementation. The Council Member's comments were acknowledged, noting that many of the actions proposed in the comments had already become business as usual activities successfully implemented from previous versions of SBMP.

The Council was one of several key stakeholders engaged in the development of SBMPv5. The ESA was responsible for preparing a document that considered feedback from all stakeholders, including the public through the formal consultation. note all feedback from stakeholders aligned with other feedback received. , The incorporation of feedback was also dependent on scope, feasibility, relevance, legislative requirements, and financial impact considerations. Therefore, while feedback from all stakeholders was considered, including that of Council, it was not possible to incorporate every proposed change when producing the final version of SBMPv5.

Information on the consultation process undertaken for SBMPv5 is publicly available at <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/SBMP>. This includes a Listening Report which outlines the various consultation processes adopted, details of the main points raised during the consultation, and how the issues raised were addressed and incorporated into the final SBMPv5. The Listening Report for SBMPv5 is available at https://hdp-au-prod-app-act-yoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/2017/5339/8412/Listening_Report_-_SBMPv5.pdf.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

28/11/2025

Date:

This response required 1hrs 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$194.48