



20EMS0326  
Your Ref: 8254665

Mr Lee Odenwalder MP  
Member for Elizabeth  
PO Box 1046  
ELIZABETH VALE SA 5112

Dear Mr Odenwalder

### **Freedom of Information Determination**

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act) received by the former Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, the Hon Corey Wingard MP on 11 June 2020 seeking access to:

*"All correspondence (including, but not limited to emails, letters, minutes, briefings and notes) between any officer or employee of SAFECOM and the Minister and/or his office, regarding the Independent review into South Australia's 2019/20 bushfire season."*

On 29 July 2020, the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP was appointed as the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, therefore your FOI application was transferred to his newly established office.

Following extensive searches of this agency's records management system, 17 documents were discovered which fall within the scope of your application and are detailed in the attached document schedule.

### **Clause 6 (1) - Personal affairs**

Documents 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 16 are to be partially released with third party information pertaining to direct work numbers and mobile phone numbers removed. This information falls within the definition of personal affairs under the FOI Act; therefore, the information is exempt by virtue of Schedule 1.

### **6—Documents affecting personal affairs**

- (1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

## **Clause 20 – Agency May Defer Access to a Document**

Pursuant to clause 20(1)(b) access to documents 5 and 12 is refused as they are publicly available. The website link to these documents is detailed in the document schedule. Section 20(1)(b) of the FOI Act provides that:

### **20 - Refusal of access**

- (1) An agency may refuse access to a document –
  - (b) if it is a document that is available for inspection at that or some other agency (whether as part of a public register or otherwise) in accordance with Part 2, or in accordance with a legislative instrument other than this Act, whether or not inspection of the document is subject to a fee or charge;

## **Clause 1 – Cabinet documents**

Documents 6 and 8 were specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet therefore, pursuant to clauses 1(1)(a) are considered exempt. Document 4 was prepared for use by the Minister in relation to a matter submitted to Cabinet therefore, pursuant to 1(1)(f) is considered exempt. Document 7 contains content prepared to brief deliberations regarding matters proposed for Cabinet consideration therefore, pursuant to 1(1)(b), is considered exempt.

### **1—Cabinet documents**

- (1) A document is an exempt document—
  - (a) if it is a document that has been specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet (whether or not it has been so submitted); or
  - (b) if it is a preliminary draft of a document referred to in paragraph (a); or
  - (f) if it is a briefing paper specifically prepared for the use of a Minister in relation to a matter submitted, or proposed to be submitted to Cabinet.

The confidentiality necessary for effective government requires that the deliberations of Cabinet should be protected from mandatory disclosure under the FOI Act. The principle of collective ministerial responsibility is central to the functioning of Cabinet, which is supported by the convention of Cabinet confidentiality. The strict observance of secrecy in relation to Cabinet deliberations enables full and frank discussions to be had before Ministers arrive at agreement.

## **Clause 9 – Internal Working Documents**

Documents 14 and 15 are progress reports relating to the operation of the Independent Review working group. As some of the information contained within these documents include commentary, it is not considered in the interest of the public to disclose this as it has the potential to inhibit openness in future communications, as it is important that the Government can receive frank, comprehensive advice and opinions. Further, the disclosure of some information contained within these documents may lead to confusion relating the possibilities of actions being considered. Therefore, in consideration of the above, I have determined to partially redact these documents pursuant to clause 9.

## 9 – Internal Working Documents

- (1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter –
- a. that relates to –
    - i. any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained prepared or recorded; or,
    - ii. any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making function of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and
  - b. the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

## Clause 2 – Executive Council documents

Document 13 is exempt pursuant to clause 2(1)(a) as it is a document specifically prepared for submission to Executive Council:

## 2—Executive Council documents

- (1) A document is an exempt document—
- (a) if it is a document that has been specifically prepared for submission to the Executive Council (whether or not it has been so submitted);

Lastly, information which is out of scope of the parameters of the application has been removed from documents 9, 10, and 17.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you may seek an internal review by writing to the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP within 30 days of receipt of this letter. A fact sheet outlining your rights to review and appeal is available at <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/information-held-sa-government/making-freedom-information-application#Review>.

Pursuant to Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, agencies receiving non-personal FOI applications may publish the document in the agency disclosure log if access is provided.

Should you require further information or clarification on this matter, please contact me on telephone 8303 0670.

Yours sincerely



**Georgia Meneaud**  
Accredited FOI Officer  
Office of the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP

22 / 01 / 2021

Encl: 1. Schedule of Documents  
2. Documents Discovered



## DOCUMENT SCHEDULE

<b>Document number</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Exemption clauses</b>	<b>Released (part/full/refused)</b>
1	Email dated 30/04/2020	6(1)	Partial
2	Briefing dated 30/04/2020	6(1)	Partial
3	Email dated 17/01/2020	6(1)	Partial
4	Briefing dated 24/01/2020	1(1)(f)	Refused
5	Terms of Reference <a href="https://www.safecom.sa.gov.au/site/independent_review_sa_201920_bushfires.jsp">https://www.safecom.sa.gov.au/site/independent_review_sa_201920_bushfires.jsp</a>	20(1)(b)	Refused
6	Cabinet Note	1(1)(a)	Refused
7	Email dated 22/01/2020	1(1)(a)	Refused
8	Cabinet Submission	1(1)(b)	Refused
9	Email dated 31/05/2020	6(1) + out of scope	Partial
10	Briefing dated 24/04/2020	6(1) + out of scope	Partial
11	Email dated 22/05/2020	6(1)	Partial
12	Media Release dated 28/01/2020 <a href="https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/independent-review-into-south-australias-201920-bushfire-season">https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/media-releases/news/independent-review-into-south-australias-201920-bushfire-season</a>	20(1)(b)	Refused
13	Email dated 19/05/2020 and attachments	2(1) (a)	Refused
14	Report dated 22/05/2020	9(1)	Partial
15	Report dated 08/05/2020	9(1)	Partial
16	Email dated 17/02/2020	6(1)	Partial
17	Talking Points	out of scope	Partial

**Meneaud, Georgia (DCS)**

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**From:** Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2020 11:22 AM  
**To:** AGD:Wingard Correspondence  
**Subject:** ESS-20-1487 - Update on the Independent Review of the 2019/20 Bushfire Season  
**Attachments:** ESS-20-1487 - Wingard, Corey MP 2020 - Update on the Independent review of the 2019\_2020 Bushfire season - briefing to Minister.docx; ESS-20-1487 - Wingard, Corey MP 2020 - Update on the Independent review of the 2019\_20 Bushfire Season - signed briefing.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** CASSIE

Good morning

Please find attached briefing for the Minister's noting regarding update on the Independent Review of the 2019/20 Bushfire Season.

Kind regards, Pavla

Pavla Soucek  
 Project Officer, Governance Board and Executive Support

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)  
 Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street  
 Adelaide SA 5000

T (08) [REDACTED] | F (08) 8115 3908 | M [REDACTED] | E Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au  
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ESS 20 - 1487



**Government of South Australia**  
 South Australian Fire and  
 Emergency Services Commission

**TO MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**


**FOR NOTING**

**RE: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE 2019/2020 BUSHFIRE SEASON**

**Critical Date:**

**Reason:**

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

SAFECOM Recommendation(s)	CE Initials	Minister's Response
Note the update on the Independent Review.		Approved / Not Approved / Noted

**Minister's Office use: Comments**

**Comments:**

**Hon Corey Wingard MP**

/ / 2020

**ISSUE:**

To provide an update to the Minister on the progress of the independent review of the 2019/20 bushfire season.

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## BACKGROUND:

On 28 January 2020 the State Government announced the Independent Review of South Australia's 2019/20 bushfire season ("the review") where Mr Mick Keelty AO will lead the review with the support of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM). The review will cover 12 broad areas of focus as listed in the Terms of Reference.

## DISCUSSION:

Since the announcement of the review SAFECOM have established the South Australian Bushfire Review Team ("the review team") consisting of:

- Mr Mick Keelty AO – Independent Inquirer Lead
- Lorraine Dilag (SAFECOM) – Project Manager
- Brett Loughlin (CFS) – Lead Subject Matter Expert and Agency Liaison
- Seamus Mc Daid (SAPOL) – Senior Information and Data Analyst
- Danielle Boddington (DEW) – Senior Information and Data Analyst
- Anthea Howard (SAFECOM) – Senior Information and Data Analyst
- Louise Gardner (MFS) – Records Manager and Project Officer

Protocols have been established between Mr Mick Keelty AO ("Mr Keelty") and the South Australian Deputy State Coroner and the South Australia Police (SAPOL) who are investigating the cause of deaths and the ignition of the fires. Mr Keelty has also established protocols with the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements to ensure there is no duplication of effort and to provide support to the Royal Commission where required.

Community consultation is a key focus for the review and unfortunately due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) social distancing and travel restrictions, all public forums and face to face meetings with the general public and key stakeholders were cancelled. A media release was publicised on 25 March 2020 outlining the impact of COVID-19 to the review and how a new approach must be undertaken.

Mr Keelty and the review team have adopted technologies such as video conferencing capabilities and a targeted survey to interact with the community and key stakeholders. There have been 32 interviews conducted to date, ranging from Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers to Chief Executives of key agencies involved in the 2019/20 bushfire season. A further 16 interviews have been scheduled for the week beginning 27 April 2020. As several matters have already been raised repeatedly and in order to meet the 30 June 2020 deadline, Mr Keelty has made the decision to reduce the interview list, capturing key individuals and agencies of relevant subject matter expertise.

The review team have received a total of 569 submissions with the deadline for submissions ending on 17 April 2020. To date the review team are still awaiting submissions from key agencies including the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

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Interviews are being completed by the first week of May, leaving the rest of May for analysis of information and data, and the remaining submissions. Any further follow up interviews and information requests for the verification of findings will also be performed in May.

**SENSITIVE:** No

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Are there financial implications?

Yes

**Budget Impact Table**

	2019-2020 \$000	2020-2021 \$000	2021-2022 \$000	2022-2023 and ongoing \$000
Operating Expenses	\$0.3million			
Operating Revenue				
<b>Net Operating Cost</b>				
Capital Expenditure				

Identify the source(s) of funds

Is there an FTE Impact?

Yes

A review team of staff from Fire and Emergency services have been engaged.

Are there any implications arising from the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and/or Treasurer's Instructions? No

**MEDIA:** Yes

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:** No

**Contract Confidentiality Clause Inserted:** No

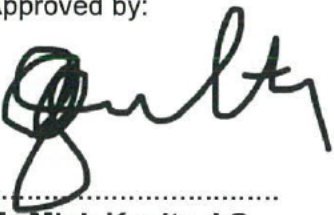
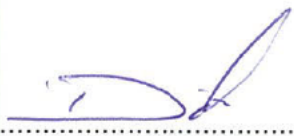
**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Nil

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<b>Contact Officer:</b> Lorraine Dilag Phone: 6(1) Date: 27/04/2020	<b>Approved by:</b>  ..... <b>Mr Mick Keelty AO</b> <b>Lead Inquirer</b>  27/04/2020	<b>Noted by:</b>  ..... <b>Dom Lane</b> <b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b> <b>SAFECOM</b>  30/4/2020
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## Meneaud, Georgia (DCS)

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**From:** Dilag, Lorraine (SAFECOM)  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 January 2020 4:59 PM  
**To:** Smith, Damian (AGD)  
**Cc:** Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM)  
**Subject:** FW: SAFECOM - Review of the 2019-2020 bushfire season - Draft Terms of Reference and Cabinet Submission - for your review and input by lunchtime 17/1/20  
**Attachments:** Draft Terms of Reference - Review of the 2019-2020 Bushfire Season.docx; Draft Ministerial Briefing - review of the 2019-20 bushfire season.docx; Cabinet note - review of the 2019-20 bushfire season.docx

Hi Damian

Please find attached draft Ministerial Briefing, Cabinet Note and draft Terms of Reference.

Please let me know if I've missed anything.

Lorraine.

---

**From:** Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM) <[Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au](mailto:Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 January 2020 12:09 PM  
**To:** Dilag, Lorraine (SAFECOM) <[Lorraine.Dilag@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lorraine.Dilag@sa.gov.au)>; Green, Robyn (DPC) <[Robyn.Green@sa.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Green@sa.gov.au)>; Blight, Tricia (DTF) <[Tricia.Blight@sa.gov.au](mailto:Tricia.Blight@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Damian (AGD) <[Damian.Smith@sa.gov.au](mailto:Damian.Smith@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: SAFECOM - Review of the 2019-2020 bushfire season - Draft Terms of Reference and Cabinet Submission - for your review and input by lunchtime 17/1/20

Hi everyone,

I have received feedback from Minister Wingard's office that a cabinet submission may not be required and that the ToR will just be noted. Thank you for your assistance and we will ensure your feedback is incorporated into a briefing to Minister Wingard.

Lorraine,

Can you please forward draft Tor to Minister for Police and Emergency Services under a brief

Thanks Dom

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**From:** Dilag, Lorraine (SAFECOM) <[Lorraine.Dilag@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lorraine.Dilag@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 16 January 2020 6:15 PM  
**To:** Green, Robyn (DPC) <[Robyn.Green@sa.gov.au](mailto:Robyn.Green@sa.gov.au)>; Blight, Tricia (DTF) <[Tricia.Blight@sa.gov.au](mailto:Tricia.Blight@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM) <[Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au](mailto:Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** SAFECOM - Review of the 2019-2020 bushfire season - Draft Terms of Reference and Cabinet Submission - for your review and input by lunchtime 17/1/20

Good afternoon

Please find attached draft Cabinet Submission and draft Terms of Reference for the Review of the 2019/2020 Bushfire Season.

Can you please review and provide input to the Chief Executive, Dom Lane (cc'd) or myself by **lunch time** tomorrow **17 January 2020**.

Thank you and regards, Lorraine.

**Lorraine Dilag** CPA

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)  
Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Clause 6(1)

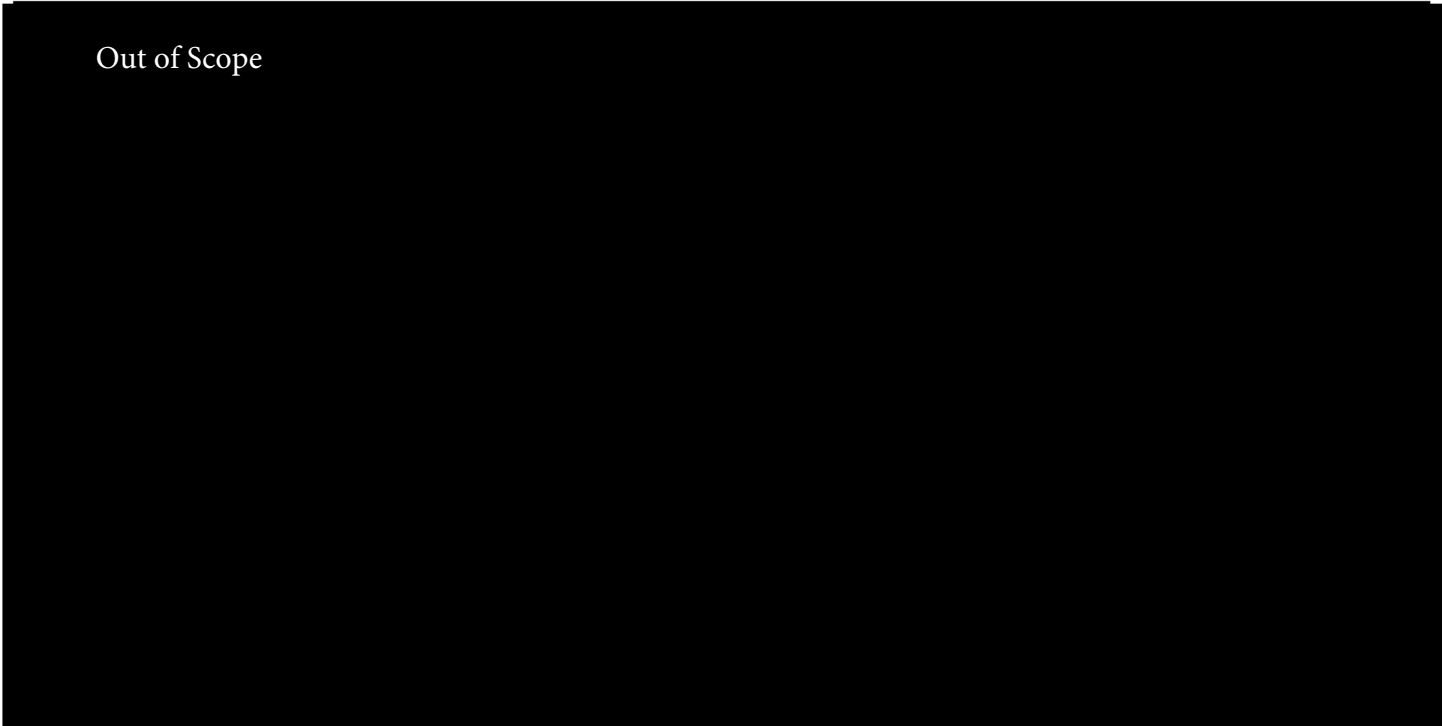
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**From:** Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 31 May 2020 5:39 PM  
**To:** Mallinson, Larissa (AGD)  
**Cc:** Watchman, Sadie (SAFECOM)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Attendees for the stakeholder meeting with Mr Keelty on 3 June 2020

Hi Larissa

Please attached the list of stakeholders for the meeting Mick Keelty is conducting this week. Mick has also confirmed he is available for 3:00pm tomorrow to meet with the Minister. I have advised Mick the Ministers office will arrange final details.

Let me know if the Minister requires any further information.

Regards  
Dom

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**From:** Dilag, Lorraine (SAFECOM) <[lorraine.dilag@sa.gov.au](mailto:lorraine.dilag@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 8:08 pm  
**To:** Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM)  
**Subject:** Attendees for the stakeholder meeting with Mr Keelty on 3 June 2020

Hi Dom

Please find below the attendees of the stakeholder meeting with Mr Keelty on Wednesday 3 June 2020:

**Subject:** Independent review into South Australia's 2019/20 bushfire season

**Attendees:**

1. Mr Mick Keelty AO
2. Commissioner Grant Stevens, SAPOL

3. Assistant Commissioner Noel Bamford, SAPOL
4. Chief Officer Mark Jones, CFS
5. Chief Officer Michael Morgan, MFS
6. Chief Officer Chris Beattie, SES
7. Chief Executive John Schutz, DEW
8. Jon Gorvett, Executive Director, Intergovernmental and Diplomatic Relations, DPC

Please advise if you need any further information.

Kind regards

**Lorraine Dilag** CPA

Project Manager

Independent Review into SA's 2019/20 Bushfire Season

Level 3, 60 Waymouth Street

Adelaide SA 5000

T 08 6(1) | F 08 8463 4054 | M 6(1) | E [Lorraine.Dilag@sa.gov.au](mailto:Lorraine.Dilag@sa.gov.au)

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ESS 20 – 1425



**Government of South Australia**  
 South Australian Fire and  
 Emergency Services Commission

**TO MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

**FOR NOTING**

**RE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE SAFECOM UPDATE REGARDING SAFECOM STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

<b>SAFECOM Recommendation (s)</b>	<b>CE Initials</b>	<b>Minister's Response</b>
That you note the contents of this briefing.	<i>DL</i>	Approved / Not Approved / Noted

**Minister's Office use: Comments**

**Comments:**

**Hon Corey Wingard MP**

/ / 2020

**ISSUE:**

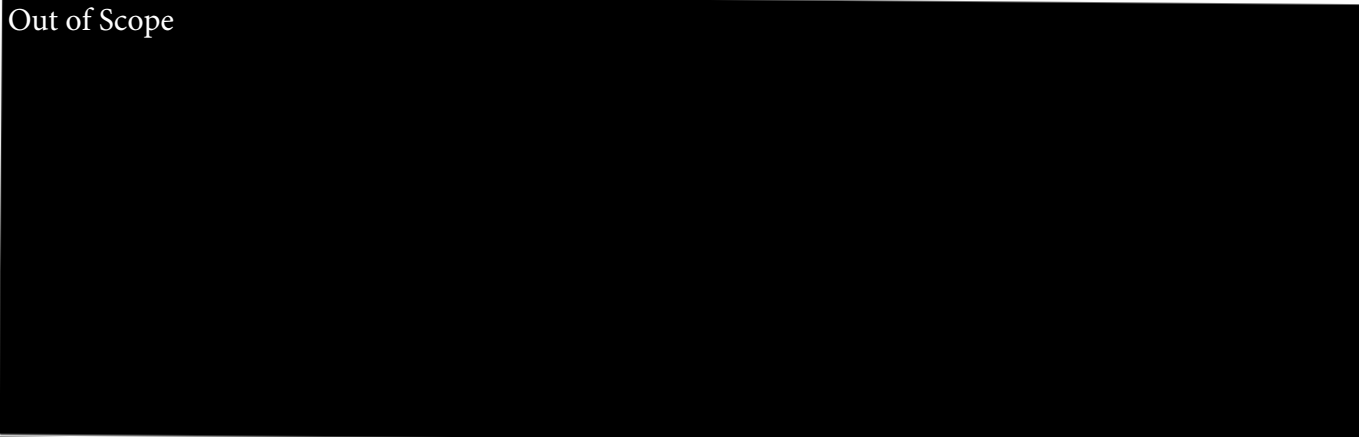
Chief Executive SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) update report regarding an overview of current SAFECOM strategic activities.

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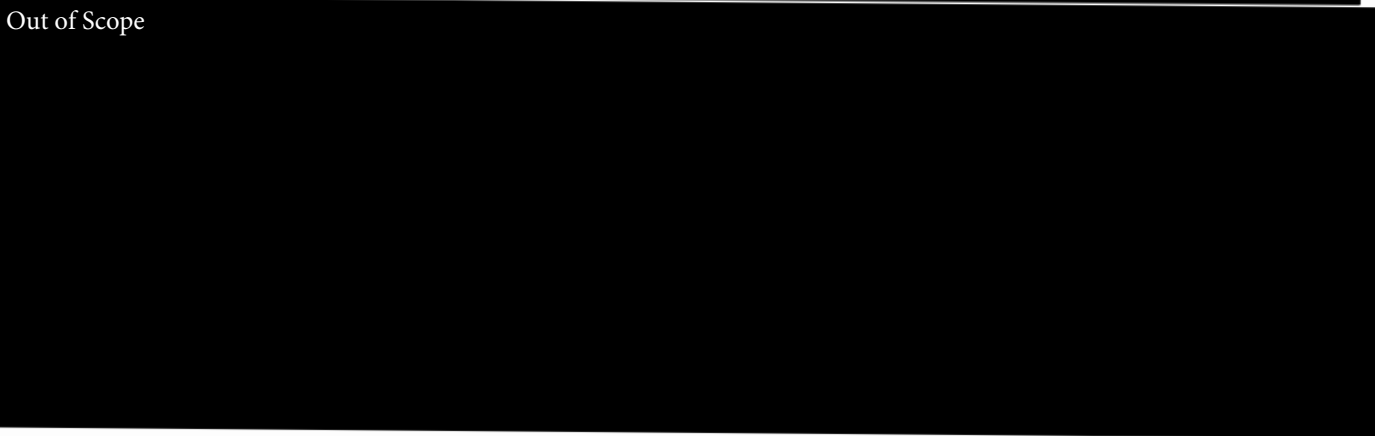
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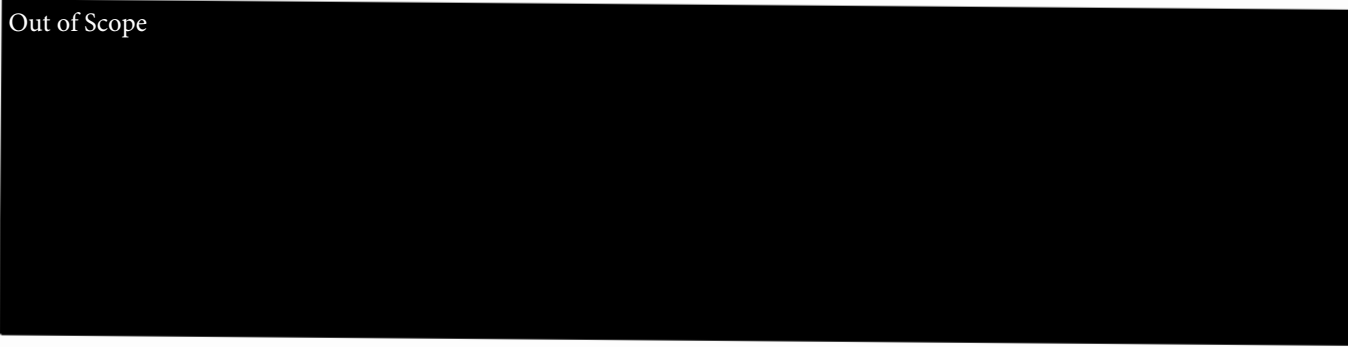


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- Independent review into SA's 2019/20 bushfire season: The SPO Team is supporting the review's communication and engagement activities, including supporting the YourSay community consultation site. In addition, the team is providing d-hoc project management support.

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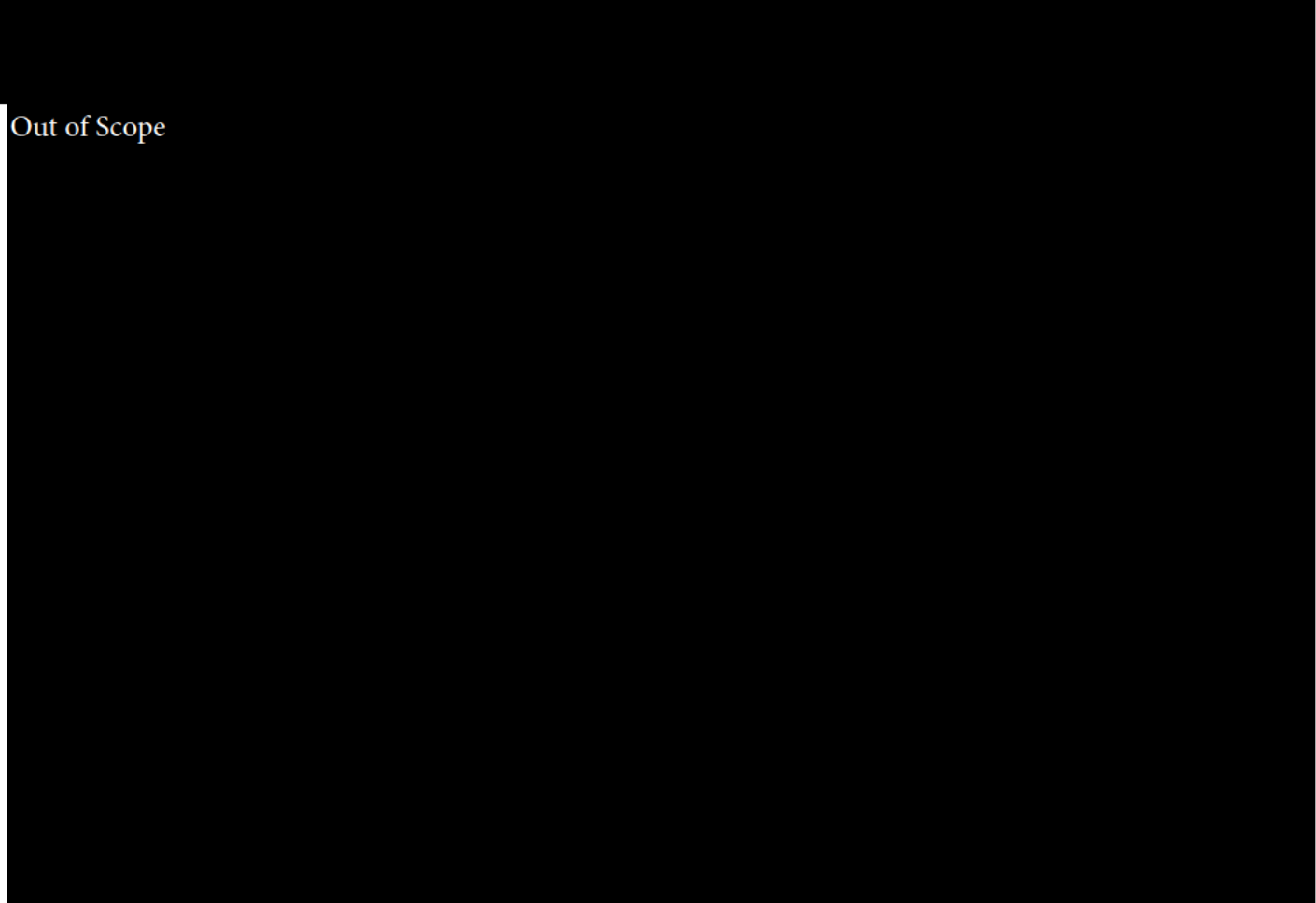
## **Bushfire Review update**

The Bushfire Review Team has already processed a significant amount of material from the community through the 'Your Say' website and submissions via email and post. A total of 539 submissions have been received to date. . Interviews with key agencies involved in fighting the fires have commenced and will continue throughout April. Deadline for submissions has been extended until

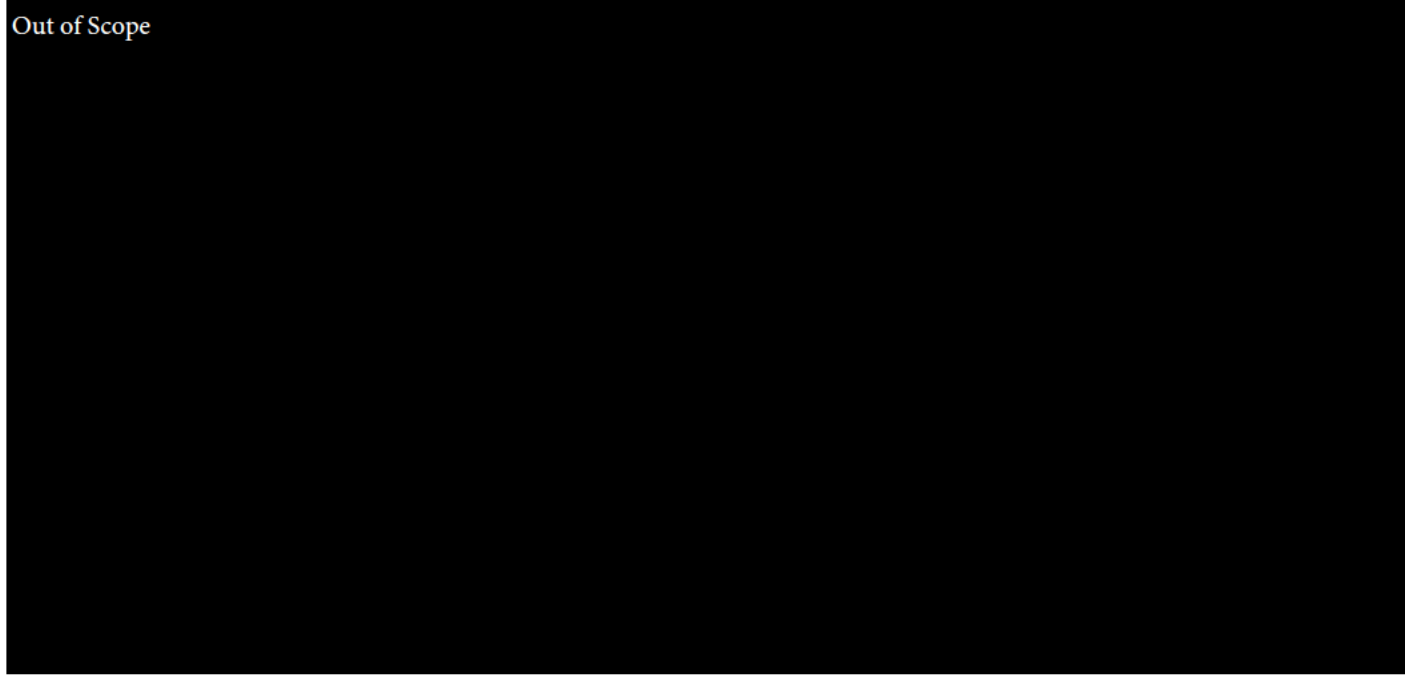
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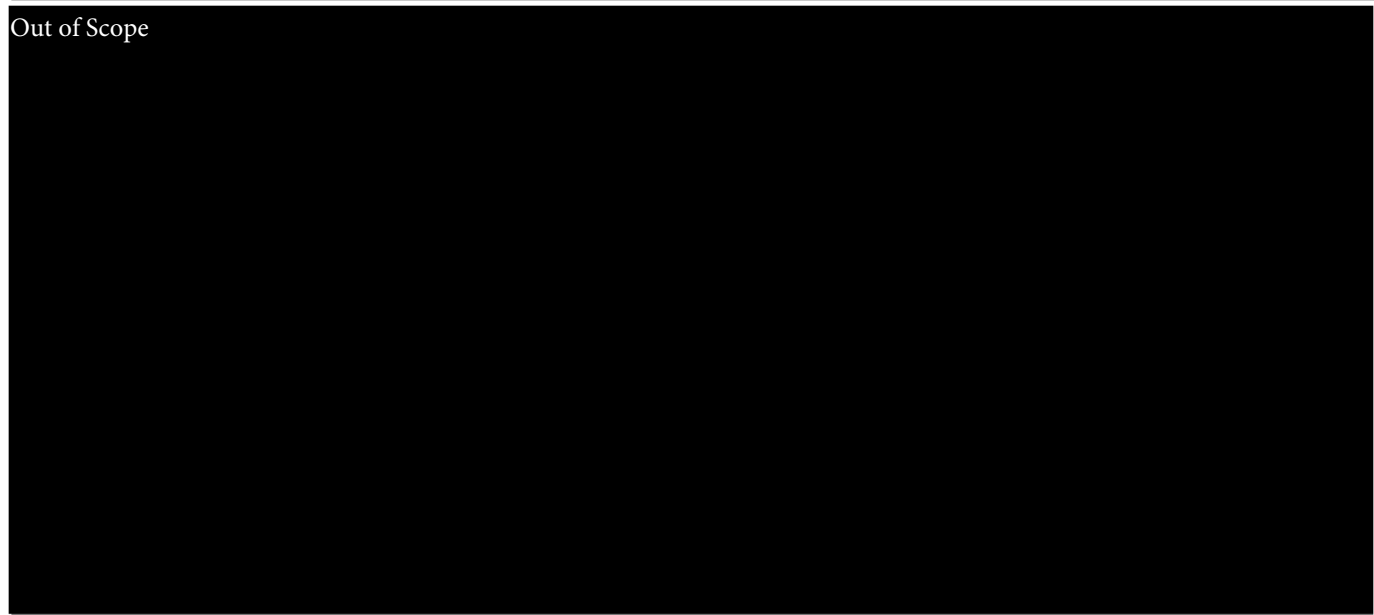
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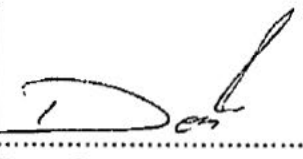


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<b>Contact Officer:</b>  Dom Lane Ph (611) [REDACTED]		<b>Approved by:</b>   ..... <b>Dom Lane</b> <b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b> <b>SAFECOM</b>  241 41 2020
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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 May 2020 10:54 AM  
**To:** Smith, Damian (AGD)  
**Subject:** 2020-01-28 - Media Release by Premier and Minister Wingard (A1273628)  
**Attachments:** 2020-01-28 - Media Release by Premier and Minister Wingard.pdf

Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM) has sent you a copy of "2020-01-28 - Media Release by Premier and Minister Wingard" (A1273628) v1.0 from Objective.

**Independent Inquiry into 2019/20 SA Bushfires – Progress Report – May 22 2020****Staffing:**

Staffing remained the same during the past week and it is clear that the team is working extended hours in order to deal with the final submissions and process the material for the report. Dr Jane Ford has been engaged to edit the review report and we have also engaged a graphic artist.

**Direction:**

9

Clause 9(1)

**Timeline:**

Next week will see the edited version of the report being made available by 29 May 2020. The following week will see discussion with key stakeholders on the findings and recommendations.

The week commencing 8 June is a short week and will be taken up by final draft and graphics for handing to the printer by Monday 15 June.

To date, there has been no indication on how the report will be presented to the community following its presentation to government.

**Administration:**

The SA border remains closed with COVID-19 restrictions still in place and the team has continued to operate remotely.



**Independent Inquiry into 2019/20 SA Bushfires – Progress Report – May 8 2020**

**Staffing:**

Staffing was impacted by the stepping down of the report writer during this week. This was unfortunate as we had engaged the report writer from week 1 in order to avoid what has now happened where we have all but finished gathering the material and the interviews and are ready to start drafting.

**Direction:**

9

**Clause 9(1)**

There still have been no media inquiries into the conduct of the Inquiry since the initial announcement.

**Timeline:**

The draft report is aiming to be completed by the end of May allowing two weeks to socialise and finalise the recommendations before edit and printing.

There may be a need to consider presentation of the report to communities following its presentation to government.

**Administration:**

Even if the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed over the next few weeks, we have advanced too far in the process to change direction in terms of how we complete the Inquiry.

**From:** [Soucek, Pavla \(SAFECOM\)](#)  
**To:** [Smith, Damian \(AGD\)](#)  
**Subject:** Talking points - urgent  
**Date:** Monday, 17 February 2020 1:45:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [Minister's talking points - Bushfires.docx](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Hi Damian, please find attached talking points as requested. If you need anything further, please let me know.

Kind regards, Pavla

**Pavla Soucek**

Project Officer, Governance Board and Executive Support

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)

Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street

Adelaide SA 5000

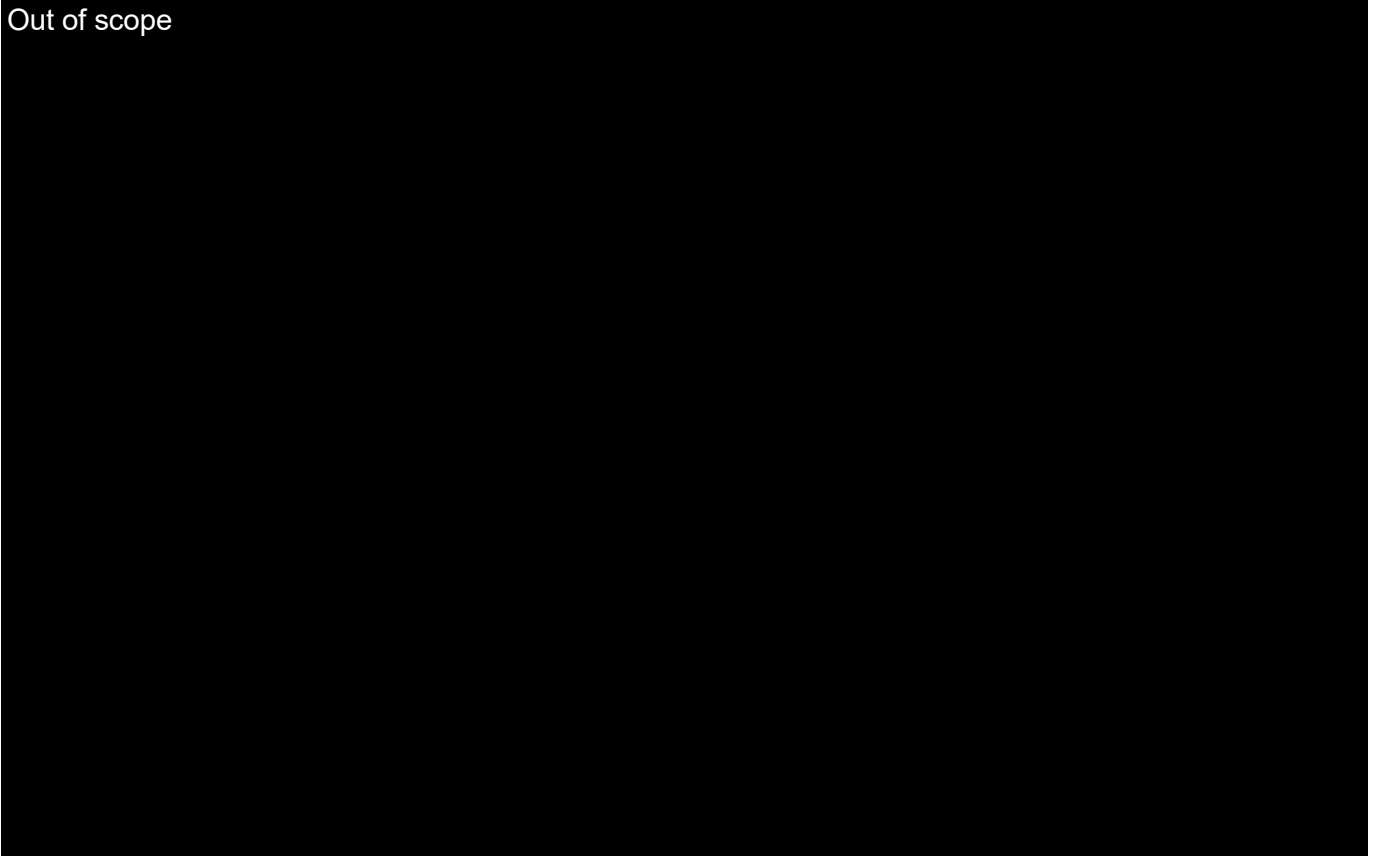
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Out of scope



## **INDEPENDENT BUSHFIRE REVIEW**

Following the recent bushfire events that have been felt not only in South Australia but across the nation, there is national focus on bushfire risk.

The intent of the Independent Review is to look into South Australia's preparedness for dealing with significant bushfire activity and what can be done to mitigate the impact of bushfires on our communities in the future.

The review will be led by Mr Mick Keelty, former Australian Federal Police Commissioner, and supported by the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) and experts from across the State's Emergency Services Sector.

A key part of the review involves the opportunity for the general public to provide feedback or submissions in relation to the 2019/20 bushfire season. The YourSay website is now live and is available for the public to get involved through a submission or comments on the discussion board.

The review team will meet with the South Australian community, Emergency Services staff, volunteers and their representative bodies in Adelaide and across regional South Australia to get a broad understanding of the recent bushfires. This is anticipated to occur in April.