



# WA Specific Bushfire Considerations

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# Recap fire season – 2023/24

- Further evidence of changing climate impacting WA
- Southern fire season longer than experienced before (October to May)
- 5088 bushfires over that period – 1000 more than the year before
- Drought impacts likely into 2024/25 season



# Future considerations

- Changes in climate - fuel age/availability, weather conditions
- Extended and overlapping north/south seasons
- Concurrent incidents – bushfire & other hazards
- Resulting pressure on staff and volunteers (retention issues)
- Reduced time for mitigation, training, out of season activities



# Emerging issues HMA (Fire)

## Urban expansion and economic development vs bushfire

### Challenges

- State Government commitment to meet housing and economic development needs
- Protect all members of community, in particular those who may be vulnerable/at risk
- Development and bushfire often conflicting outcomes

### Responses

- Collaborative effort across State government
- DFES continue to provide clear, consistent and constructive advice
- Enable decision makers to make informed decisions

# Emerging issues HMA (Fire)

## New technology – e.g. Battery Energy Storage Systems

### Challenges

- Significant growth area
- New technologies emerging
- Response complexities

### Responses

- WA relevant guidelines (CFA modified)
- Research and development
- Early engagement – collaboration LUP, BEB & Spec Ops



*Image: ABC / Synergy*

# Emerging issues HMA (Fire)

## Policy Settings – Plantations & Carbon Sequestration

### Challenges

- Inconsistent approach across LGAs
- Creates management & mitigation issues
- Could result in transfer of risk to HMA

### Responses

- Work with DPLH on policy
- Key assessment – location, access, water



*Image: Dept of Agriculture (federal)*



# Questions

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