

# Emergencies (Strategic Bushfire Management) Plan 2025

**Disallowable instrument DI2025–249**

made under the

**Emergencies Act 2004, s 72 (Strategic Bushfire Management Plan)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Overview

The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) is the overarching document that directs all levels of bushfire planning in the ACT. Its purpose is to provide a strategic framework to protect the ACT community from bushfires and reduce resulting harm to the physical, social, cultural and economic environment of the Territory.

The first SBMP was developed in 2004, and since this time the SBMP has underpinned the continuous improvement in bushfire management outcomes in the ACT. Section 80 of the *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act) provides that the SBMP must be reviewed at intervals of not more than 5 years. Accordingly, SBMP version 2 was released in October 2009, version 3 was released in September 2014 and version 4 was released in September 2019. The instrument makes version 5 of the SBMP and revokes the existing version 4.

To achieve its purpose, the SBMP sets objectives and actions for:

- Community resilience and preparedness
- Firefighting capability and management
- Bushfire risk planning and land management
- Land use development planning
- Bushfire research
- Bushfire recovery.

This version of the SBMP acknowledges, and builds on, the bushfire protection measures and learnings implemented through the previous versions of the SBMP and delivers a number of improvements in operational practices, community education and awareness and overall risk mitigation. This plan ensures that the ACT will continue to have a robust governance and planning framework, informed by best practice, and reflective of community priorities, for its bushfire management activities.

The SBMP is separated into two main volumes – the Strategic Plan and the Implementation Plan. When referring to the SBMP both volumes are referenced recognising their interdependence. When referring to the ‘SBMP’, the reference is to both volumes in combination.

The Implementation Plan outlines the key actions required to achieve the outcomes identified in the SBMP. As unforeseen changes arise, such as those related to climate change, unexpected fire events, or new research findings, the actions can be reviewed, updated or improved accordingly.

In developing the SBMP, the Commissioner, Emergency Services Agency, consulted with the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council and the Conservator of Flora and Fauna as required by section 72 (2) of the Act.

In addition, a comprehensive community and stakeholder consultation campaign was undertaken to support the development of the draft plan. This consultation recognised the delivery of the comprehensive strategies in the SBMP over the next 5 years is contingent on the support of government, key stakeholders and the broader community. This included a public consultation period as required by section 75 of the Act.

#### **Clause notes**

Clause 1 and 2 are formal provisions that deal with the name and commencement of the new instrument.

Clause 3 is the provision making the SBMP, which is contained at schedule 1.

Clause 4 revokes the existing SBMP version 4.

There are no human rights implications arising from this instrument.

There are no climate change implications arising from this instrument, although a priority for the SBMP is responding to the impacts of climate change. This is addressed through the focus area ‘Bushfire Risk Planning and Land Management’.