

# Bushfire Regional Committees and Council

Are you passionate about protecting your community from bushfire risks? Do you have the skills, experience, or ideas to make a difference in fire management? The Bushfires Council and Regional Bushfire Committees are seeking dedicated individuals to help shape and implement effective strategies to manage bushfire risks across the Northern Territory.

## Bushfires NT Overview

Bushfires NT provides fire management support in the fire protection zones across the Northern Territory (NT) and is administered by the *Bushfires Management Act 2016* and are responsible for:

- supporting landholders in managing and mitigating bushfires
- providing support and training to volunteer bushfire brigades across the Territory
- coordination and management of aerial firefighting capability across the Top End.

## Purpose of Regional Bushfire Committees and Council

The Bushfires Council and Regional Bushfires Committees are statutory boards established under the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*. There are five Regional Bushfires Committees representing each of the fire management zones (FMZs) in the NT including Arnhem, Alice Springs, Barkly, Savanna and Vernon Arafura.

Regional Bushfires Committees are established to offer recommendations to the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in their FMZ. The role of the Bushfires Council is to advise the Minister on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires across the NT.

A key outcome of the committees is to establish and endorse a regional bushfire management plan, prepared by Bushfires NT, for the committee's fire management zone. The plans aim to assess what kind of danger exists in different area and help decide how to use resources and make decisions to keep Territorians safe. The regional bushfire management plans outline land use and fire management objectives within the region and identify and categorise risks at a regional level. The risk registers clarify the owners of the risks and potential and existing measures and treatments. Once the plans are endorsed by the Committee, they are released to the public.

There is a regional bushfire committee established for each fire management zone:

- Alice Springs
- Arnhem
- Barkly (Tennant Creek)
- Savanna (Katherine)
- Vernon Arafura (Greater Darwin region)

## Why get involved?

- By joining the Bushfires Council or a Regional Bushfire Committee, you'll be part of an influential group working to protect communities, natural environments, and infrastructure from the effects of bushfires
- Provide advice and contribute to the development of regional bushfire management plans, risk mitigation strategies, and community preparedness.
- Whether you're an expert in fire management, environmental science, land conservation, or community outreach, your skills are invaluable. Your insights will help ensure the region is better prepared for future bushfire challenges.
- Work alongside fire management experts, government representatives, local community leaders, and emergency services to create robust, comprehensive bushfire strategies.

## Member responsibilities

- To be strategic – adopt a long-term perspective, anticipate and respond to changes in the external environment, and integrate various corporate functions.
- To be stakeholder focused – be aware of community and stakeholder views and needs, balance the demands of different stakeholders.
- To ensure the highest standards of accountability and ethical behaviour.

## Appointment Term

The minister appoints members of the council and the committees to support bushfire prevention and control in the NT. Members are appointed for a term of up to 3 years and are eligible for reappointment after the term.

The members are appointed for their knowledge and experience in land and fire management and their ability to represent the interests of land use sectors. Each member represents a broad cross section of regional land use interests. The chair of each Regional Bushfires Committee is also appointed as a member of the Bushfires Council.

## How often do they meet?

While there is no prescribed schedule of committee or council meetings, it is usual for committees to meet twice each year. Extra meetings can be held at the chair's discretion.

## Remuneration

Appointed members are eligible for a sitting fee of \$228 per day or \$304 for the chairperson and paid on a pro rata basis depending on the length of meeting.

Public sector employees are not entitled to remuneration for their time spent on statutory boards whilst they are receiving their usual NTPS salary, unless they are on any form of unpaid leave.

## More Information

Please contact Bushfires NT Board Administrator on 8922 0837 or [BushfiresNT.Secretariat@nt.gov.au](mailto:BushfiresNT.Secretariat@nt.gov.au)