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DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

# Bushfires Management Act





# Consultation process – discussion and recommendation papers

Discussion Paper released – January 2014

Recommendation Paper - April 2015, delivered in hard copy to 250 stakeholders

Series of meetings, forums, presentations across the Territory. 38 public meetings. Release of Bill.

31 written submissions received

Lots of less formal feedback....

A lot of feedback was about operations – this was used in a revamp of the SOPs in 2015



## Initial feedback

Strong recommendations to retain some key structures and principles:

- Retain Council as Ministerial advisory body
- Retain Regional Committees with clear role in regional planning as well as ability to make recommendations to Council
- Retain the principle that landowners are responsible for fire management



# Discussion Paper feedback

Recommended significant changes in 5 areas:

- Volunteers – recognition, authority and protection
- Brigades – modify constitution, BNT role when brigades having problems
- Formalises an effective planning framework that acknowledges different fire management regimes
- Clarify Bushfires NT role, establish clear chain of command
- Strengthen provisions for adaptive management of fire risk



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# Bushfires Council

Continue advisory role and remove perceived operational role

Minister must consider advice and provide feedback

Remove automatic allocation of fire warden powers

Minister may provide terms of reference





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# Regional Committees

Continue role to advise Council

Add role to participate in and endorse regional fire management planning

Fire warden powers to be optional

Remove upper limit of 6 members

Remove requirement for FCO to be member

Minister may provide terms of reference





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# Volunteers

Create Authorised Bushfire Volunteer position

Powers can be delegated through chain of command – by Warden or FCO

Protection from liability – same as wardens and FCOs

Employment rights protection





# Brigades

Expand brigade objects to include non fire related activities that benefit community

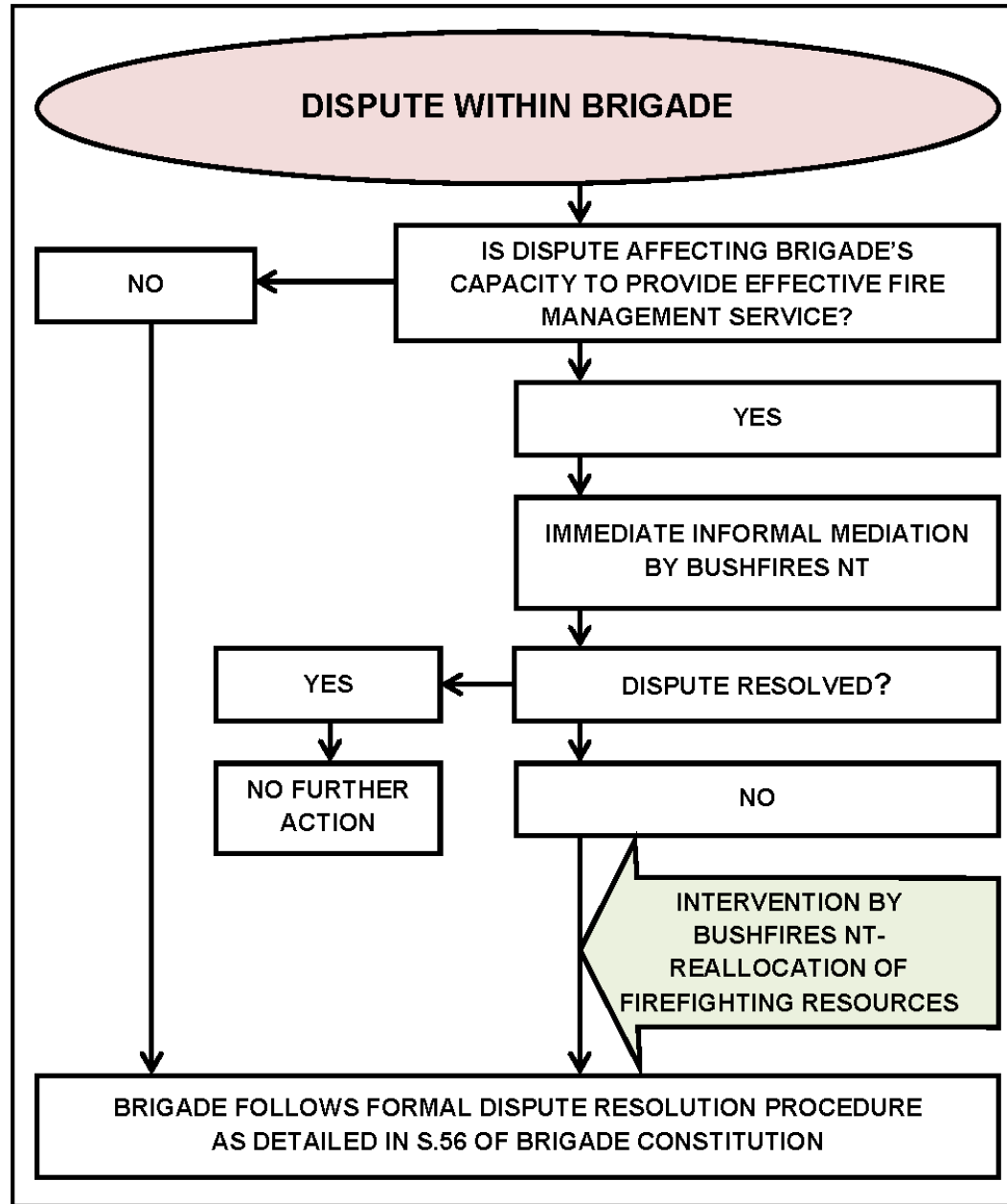
Remove limit to number of members of committee

Add option for brigade to appoint someone other than captain to chair meetings

Add ability for Director to reallocate brigade resources if brigade becomes dysfunctional – see diagram







Intervention decision diagram





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# Fire management regimes

Retain Fire Protection Zone, Fire Danger Area and Fire Ban

Add Fire Management Zone, Declared Fire Management Area and prescribed fire management plan

All NT except ERAs in series of Fire Management Zones

Other regimes can overlie FMZ





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# Fire Protection Zone

Retain requirement for permits

Add requirement for a fire break around perimeter

Add response capacity





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# Fire Management Zone

All of NT in series of FMZs

FMZs replace Fire Control Regions

Therefore each FMZ has a regional committee

Requirement for a region bushfire management plan,  
role in preparation and endorsement for committee





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# Declared Fire Management Area

Declared for a period in response to extraordinary conditions

Focus on extensive mitigation and preparedness

Can require individual properties to have a fire management plan

Capacity to require 'doing an act' (eg establish firebreaks)





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# Prescribed Property Management Plan

Director can prescribe a plan for an individual property

Based on a risk assessment (documented)

Follows attempt to negotiate a solution

Enforceable





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# Bushfires NT

The role of BNT in bushfire management planning, mitigation and emergency response to be recognised

Position of Executive Director BNT to be recognised as senior office in BNT, subject to department CE

Power for EDBNT to issue General Orders – eg chain of command, SOPs, codes, policies

