Managing bushfire risk in WA through policy and programs – October 2020

The approach of the Hazard Management Agency for Fire

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Figure I: The Evolving Risks Landscape, 2007–2020

Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Likelihood

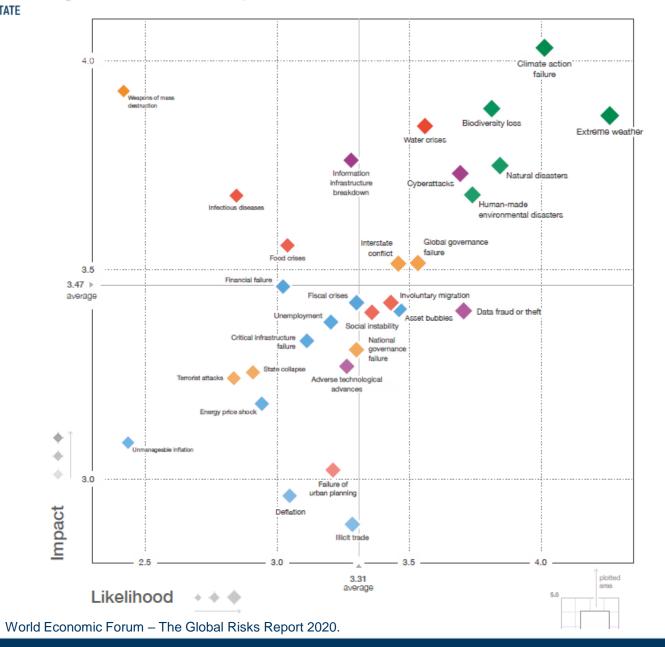
ТОР	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1st	Infrastructure breakdown	Blow up in asset prices	Asset price collapse	Asset price collapse	Storms and cyclones	Income disparity	Income disparity	Income disparity	Interstate conflict	Involuntary migration	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	
2nd	Chronic diseases	Middle East instability	China economic slowdown	China economic slowdown	Flooding	Fiscal imbalances	Fiscal imbalances	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Involuntary migration	Natural disasters	Climate action failure	Climate action failure	
3rd	Oil price shock	Failed and failing states	Chronic diseases	Chronic disease	Corruption	Greenhouse gas emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions	Unemployment	Failure of national governance	Climate action failure	Natural disasters	Cyberattacks	Natural disasters	Natural disasters	
4th	China hard landing	Oil price shock	Global governance gaps	Fiscal crises	Biodiversity loss	Cyberattacks	Water crises	Climate action failure	State collapse or crisis	Interstate conflict	Terrorist attacks	Data fraud or theft	Data fraud or theft	Biodiversity loss	
5th	Blow up in asset prices	Chronic diseases	Deglobalization (emerging)	Global governance gaps	Climate change	Water crises	Population ageing	Cyberattacks	Unemployment	Natural catastrophes	Data fraud or theft	Climate action failure	Cyberattacks	Human-made environmental disasters	
Тор	Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Impact														
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1st	Blow up in asset prices	Blow up in asset prices	Asset price collapse	Asset price collapse	Fiscal crises	Financial failure	Financial failure	Fiscal crises	Water crises	Climate action failure	Weapons of mass destruction	Weapons of mass destruction	Weapons of mass destruction	Climate action failure	
2nd	Deglobalization	Deglobalization (developed)	Deglobalization (developed)	Deglobalization (developed)	Climate change	Water crises	Water crises	Climate action failure	Infectious diseases	Weapons of mass destruction	Extreme weather	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Weapons of mass destruction	
3rd	Interstate and civil wars	China hard landing	Oil and gas price spike	Oil price spikes	Geopolitical conflict	Food crises	Fiscal imbalances	Water crises	Weapons of mass destruction	Water crises	Water crises	Natural disasters	Extreme weather	Biodiversity loss	
4th	Pandemics	Oil price shock	Chronic diseases	Chronic disease	Asset price collapse	Fiscal imbalances	Weapons of mass destruction	Unemployment	Interstate conflict	Involuntary migration	Natural disasters	Climate action failure	Water crises	Extreme weather	
5th	Oil price shock	Pandemics	Fiscal crises	Fiscal crises	Energy price volatility	Energy price volatility	Climate action failure	Infrastructure breakdown	Climate action failure	Energy price shock	Climate action failure	Water crises	Natural disasters	Water crises	
					Economic	Environmen	tal Geo	political	Societal	Technological					

Source: World Economic Forum 2007-2020, Global Risks Reports.

Note: Global risks may not be strictly comparable across years, as definitions and the set of global risks have evolved with new issues emerging on the 10-year horizon. For example, cyberattacks, income disparity and unemployment entered the set of global risks in 2012. Some global risks have been reclassified: water crises and income disparity were recategorized as societal risks in the 2015 and 2014 *Global Risks Reports*, respectively.

Figure II: The Global Risks Landscape 2020







A changing climate

Warming and drying climate influencing the scale and impact of natural hazards globally.

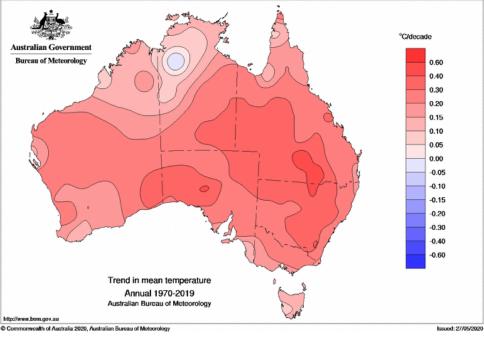
Changing climate dominating the focus of governments globally. Former longterm impacts being realised now and short to medium term challenges.

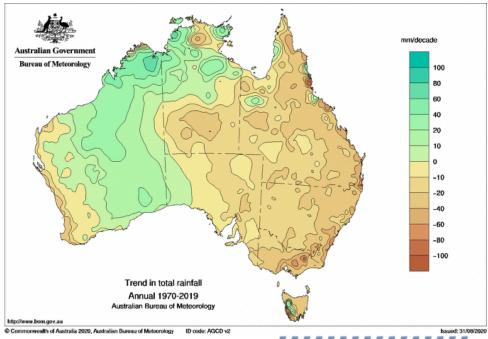
Increasing risk, community focus and government responses make for an increasingly complex policy space for natural hazard management.

Government, businesses and the communities becoming more adaptive as awareness of the impacts of a changing climate increases and become more apparent to the individual.

2019/20 Summer bushfires an awakening moment for Australia and the impacts a changing climate is having at a national scale, the communities and their values.

For WA first year the northern summer bushfire season merged with southern summer bushfire season.





Western Australian Bushfire Reforms 2018

Waroona Bushfire January 2016 prompted a change in focus of government and the Hazard Management Agency for Fire 2017 new government and change in leadership at DFES

23 April 2018 Bushfire reforms:

- creation of a Rural Fire Division within DFES
- \$50 million towards mitigation (\$35 million ongoing) Local government led Bushfire Risk Management Planning
- Bushfire Centre of Excellence training and research

Broader reform – integration of Office of Emergency Management and State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat into DFES





Western Australian Bushfire Management - Governance

Legislation

- Consolidation of the Emergency Services related Acts (Fire Brigades Act 1942, Bush Fires Act 1954, Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998)
- Inter-relationship with other legislation i.e. native vegetation, biodiversity conservation

Committee structure and constitution

- State Bushfire Advisory Council (Cabinet appointed positions WALGA, volunteer associations, UFU, BOM, agencies) provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Minister for Emergency Services and FES Commissioner https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/Pages/statebushfireadvisorycouncil.aspx
- Interagency Bushfire Operational Committee guide interagency collaboration efforts (DFES, DBCA, WALGA)
- Bushfire Operational Committee (LG led) providing advice to DFES Operations





Western Australian Bushfire Management - Policy

- State Bushfire Management Policy overarching policy bringing together all elements that support management of bushfire in Western Australia and supports reporting to Government
- Planning in bushfire prone areas (CSIRO developed Map of Bushfire Prone Areas, State Planning Policy 3.7 and associated Guidelines)
- Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRM Plan)
- Integration of bushfire elements in interrelated policies and strategies i.e. Djarlma Plan
- Collaboration in evolving policy areas such as smoke management (government/non-government)
- Resource sharing locally, regionally, nationally and internationally a growing challenge





ABC 2019

Western Australian Bushfire Management - Programs

BRM Planning - \$50 million investment (\$35 million ongoing for mitigation activities)

Cross sector training (BCoE) including cultural burning

Projects – \$50 million Australian Fire Danger Rating System and associated communications

Resource sharing local, state and national level – i.e. AFAC's National Aerial Firefighting Centre

DFES Assurance Program for planned burning

Research programs – agency and local government level supported through National Disaster Resilience program, Bushfire Natural Hazards CRC, local governments and agencies.





Western Australian Bushfire Management - evolving the approach

Review and enhancement of existing programs – i.e. BRM Planning

Cultural and traditional burning broader scale – connection of science with culture

Alternative strategies to reduce the fuel and structure – ecological thinning

Improved community warnings – smoke, AFDRS (consistency across Australia prompting actions)

Royal Commission – influence on jurisdictional management of bushfire (other natural hazards) potential enhancement of information sharing, investment in programs/projects and resource sharing across jurisdictions. Due 28 October 2020.



Questions?

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