1. Traditionally, the bushfire season in Queensland commences in the north of the State in August and concludes in December of each year, dependent on seasonal conditions. A number of factors can influence the length and severity of the bushfire season including the timing and nature of the previous wet season and the current climate outlook.
2. It is anticipated that Queensland will experience above median rainfall, with the outlook for normal fire potential, during the 2020 bushfire season, however there is a risk of grass fires due to good grass growth in some areas as a result of late summer rainfall.
3. To prepare for the 2020 bushfire season, Operation Cool Burn, which runs from April to August each year, focusses on mitigation activities to reduce bushfire risks and their potential impact, enhances engagement with government agencies, local councils and other stakeholders across the state, and promotes community education to prepare households for the season.
4. The State Disaster Coordination Group is considering potential impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on operational planning, air operations, interstate, international and intrastate deployments, fatigue management and on processes and facilities such as evacuation centres as COVID-19 restrictions change.
5. The Queensland Bushfire Plan, developed by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, outlines Queensland’s approach to the management of the bushfire hazard and considers the management of bushfire across the phases of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery providing guidance on the interaction of bushfire response with Queensland’s disaster management arrangements.
6. Cabinet noted the 2020 bushfire season update and preparation and mitigation activities.
7. Cabinet approved the Queensland Bushfire Plan and its publication.
8. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Bushfire Plan](Attachments/Plan.PDF)