



**DFES General Circular No: 09/2022**

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**Bushfire Centre of Excellence celebrates one year anniversary**

One year ago, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence facility in Nambeelup celebrated practical completion with an official opening ceremony.

The Bushfire Centre of Excellence is purpose-built to provide learning and skills development for WA's bushfire sector through new and improved bushfire and planned burning training.

It is creating connections to support the application of Aboriginal traditional land practices more broadly across the State, exploring the latest in science and academia and facilitating engagement opportunities to connect the sector.

In the last year more than 40 training courses were delivered at the Centre or from various locations across the State to over 470 students. This included emergency services volunteers, local government staff, DBCA and DFES staff and other emergency management personnel.

New training courses included Assist with Planned Burning, Fire Weather 1, Bushfire Fundamentals, Rural Fire Awareness and Fire Control Officer.

A number of key events welcomed over 2,000 people to the facility. This included the inaugural Bushfire Community Day in October 2021. The free event showcased DFES and volunteer responders and featured informative displays, information sessions and family-friendly activities.

The team has continued to grow and in 2022 the following new positions have been appointed:

- Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator
- Bushfire Knowledge and Practice Manager
- Bushfire Research and Partnerships Coordinator
- Administration Officer – Business Management

The Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator will lead the Centre's Cultural Fire Program, formerly titled the Traditional Fire Program.

The successful applicant, Mr David Windsor, is a descendant of the Kaurareg people of Keriri Island (Hammond Island) in the Torres Strait, and is a highly skilled emergency services professional.



In the last 12 months Cultural Fire Program staff spoke with more than 1,500 school students and met with groups including Winjan and Undalup Association Rangers.

It presented at 10 conferences and forums and met with a range of Traditional Owners across WA. The programs first [cultural fire publications](#) were also published and are the first in a suite of products that they will produce to further enhance understanding, knowledge and application of cultural fire practices.

The Bushfire Centre of Excellence has a number of [training courses](#) scheduled for 2022 and is planning a range of events to welcome more people to the facility.

A Burn Planner and Burn Controller course will be released shortly, and consultation is about to commence with key stakeholders to review and update the DFES Plantation Firefighting course.

Staff and volunteers are invited to make use of the facilities for events, training and other activities and can utilise the [3D tour](#) to explore what's on offer.

New additions to the building include the first parts of an interpretive learning centre including a visual timeline telling the history of fire in WA, an audio seat and Nyungar room names on stylised plaques.

For more information visit [dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfirecoe](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfirecoe) or email [bushfirecoe@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:bushfirecoe@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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