

Strategic Direction 5

Informed by knowledge, innovation and research

Overview

Emergency Management operates in a dynamic environment with major shifts in technology, demography, and community expectations. An ongoing concern for AFAC and its members is the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Particularly heatwaves, storms, floods and extreme bushfire conditions. The fire and emergency services will anticipate and respond to these challenges, underpinned by robust knowledge, informed by post event analysis, research and innovation.

Partnerships will be established and maintained to deliver pure and applied research and importantly look beyond the sector to understand how to achieve the path to our goals. By scanning the environment and collaborating across Australia and internationally, opportunities can be identified and utilised.

Our research focus will be driven by community safety outcomes and we'll confidently refocus our efforts to maximise value.

Fire and emergency services will be informed by knowledge, innovation and research by:

1. **Maintaining a visible link between our research and community benefits** through an ongoing commitment to being engaged in the research, informed of research outcomes and adopting improved practices.
2. **Ensuring knowledge and information** is collected, stored and made accessible across the sector.
3. **Enhancing evidence-based decision-making** by establishing and maintaining robust lessons management processes and using available data, information and research to improve outcomes.
4. **Actively engaging with Traditional Owners** to allow where appropriate, knowledge and practice to be shared, acknowledged and respected for continual learning and adaptive management.
5. **Driving innovation to enable sector advancement** whereby intellectual expertise is valued and there is a desire to identify, nurture and champion evolving opportunities and potential.
6. **Considering how the sector adapts to future scenarios**, including demographics, climate change and emerging technologies.
7. **Strengthening our national and international partnerships** to accelerate our learning, promote creative thinking and enhance value for all.
8. **Anticipating and responding to emerging community, industry and government needs** through deep engagement and understanding of the changing environment.