



## **Parks and Wildlife Service - Albany District Report:**

### **Fire Season Preparedness:**

DBCA are currently undertaking preparations for the bushfire season ahead which is coming out of a warmer and drier Autumn, Winter.

### **Government Investment in Capacity:**

The State Government investment into fire capability is underway. The new Conservation Employees have been selected and are commencing in the near future. The new heavy duty "gang truck" fire appliance, a D6 bulldozer, a low loader and prime mover are all on order and under construction. Expected time of arrival will be later next year.

### **Prescribed Burning:**

Considerations were made in the previous Autumn to undertake burning within the District, however unfortunately the timeframe between the bush being drought-ridden and too dry to being saturated was insufficient for any operation to be successfully undertaken. Some of these were subject to the outcomes of permits to take flora and all were subject to permits to take fauna.

### **Soil Dryness and Ecosystem Health:**

Rainfall across the Albany District is down on last year, increasing more so the further east of Albany you go. After an already dry year, this is raising concerns for the ongoing drought effects on the landscape, as well as the inherent bushfire risk that brings. DBCA are continuing to monitor the situation.

### **Staff Changes**

There will be a new national park Range commence in the Stirlings by the end of November. Vince Hilder will be taking up a new role within The Region and will vacate the District Fire Coordinator role on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. The process has commence to fill this position.