

and the role of the State Disaster Plan is thus achieved, an amendment to current legislation would be necessary.

Recommendation: The provisions of the State Disasters Act, 1983, be extended to cover the proposed policy and organisational amendments.

[Reference paragraph: 286]

SECTION 3 - MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS

300. Mitigation and preparedness must always be regarded as a major bushfire counter-measure. Many discrete aspects influence its effectiveness. They include:

- . General apathy within the community
- . The policies and attitudes of governments
- . Use of legislation and regulation
- . Fuel reduction policies
- . The roles, responsibilities and powers of involved organisations, including local government
- . Individual responsibility
- . Special policies and measures in fire-prone areas
- . Emergency training, public awareness and education
- . Preservation of the environment
- . Insurance aspects.

301. Current standards of mitigation and preparedness in Victoria are too low, thus reducing counter-disaster effectiveness.

Recommendation: Mitigation and preparedness be enhanced and maintained for the future. Some co-ordinating mechanism or system be introduced at State Government level for this purpose.