Concept Plan SP 2018-134

Development of a systematic approach to monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of prescribed burns and bushfires

Fire Science

Project Core Team

Supervising Scientist	Lachie Mccaw
Data Custodian	Lachie Mccaw
Site Custodian	

Project status as of May 27, 2019, 9:47 a.m.

Pending project plan approval

Document endorsements and approvals as of May 27, 2019, 9:47 a.m.

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

Development of a systematic approach to monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of prescribed burns and bushfires

Biodiversity and Conservation Science Program

Fire Science

Departmental Service

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

Aims

This project aims to develop the framework for a systematic approach to monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of prescribed burns and bushfires, and to develop and test a variety of reporting tools and metrics related to environmental outcomes.

Expected outcome

- Improved ability to quantify spatial patterns of fire activity and vegetation effect will support cost-effective and meaningful reporting on the extent to which prescribed burning has achieved specified objectives and success criteria for biodiversity management, bushfire risk management and other land management values eg. forest regeneration.
- Improved reporting will contribute to refinement of the prescribed fire planning process including objectives that are measurable, achievable and relevant to particular land management values.
- Applying the same approach to quantify spatial patterns of fire activity and vegetation effect following bushfires will allow informed comparison of the effectiveness of the overall fire management program.

Strategic context

Corporate risks arising from the lack of a systematic approach to monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of planned burning include:

- Inability to provide timely and comprehensive information to service the needs of inquiries, reviews and government accountability processes;
- Insufficient feedback on outcomes to support a genuine adaptive management approach;
- Foregone opportunity for the fire management program to have broad ownership and support from internal and external stakeholders with specific land management responsibilities and interests.

Expected collaborations

Fire Science program: L McCaw, V Densmore, B Miller, K Ruthrof
Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis program: K Zdunic & other scientists with appropriate skills
Subject matter experts from Species & Communities Branch, Animal Science, Ecosystem Science
Liaison with Fire Management Services Branch and fire practitioners

Proposed period of the project

Nov. 8, 2018 – June 30, 2020

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist	1.0	1.0	
Technical			
Volunteer			

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Collaborator	0.5	0.5	

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DBCA) External Funding	10 000	30 000	