Objectives for the Burra workshop series

- Discuss strategies to manage fire to reduce risk whilst improving biodiversity and cultural values
- Introduce landholders to fire management planning for their own property
- Address the fear of fire and potential barriers for landholders to conduct planned burns
- Address any confusion regarding procedures and regulations for planned burns

Workshop Evaluation Results

- Did this workshop improve your understanding of fire management, and how to manage fire on your property? 63% (Very much so)
- Did this workshop give you a better understanding of how to plan for fire in different vegetation types on your property? 63% (Very much so)
- Has this workshop increased your understanding about fire behaviour in the landscape? 54% (Quite a lot)
- Did this workshop inform you about who is involved with fire management around your area, and what they do? 33% (Some)
- Did this workshop improve your understanding of how to plan for and conduct a safe burn? 50% (Some)

92 percent of landholders plan to use fire for biodiversity after attending Hotspots

Workshop achievements

Workshop participants reported that although the controlled burn component of the workshop was not possible due to the wet weather they increased their knowledge of fire and biodiversity, and valued the opportunity to develop holistic fire management plans for their properties.

Achievements of this workshop series included:
- 53 landholders participated in the Hotspots workshops
- 31 tailored Property Fire Management Plans were developed by the participants with assistance from the Hotspots team, covering an area of 1805 hectares including 802.8 hectares of native vegetation.

BURRA WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT*

Workshop 1 (12/4/2014) and Workshop 2 (3/5/2014)

Burra is located at the eastern edge of the Murrumbidgee River catchment, south of Queanbeyan in the South Eastern Highland Bioregion. Several conservation reserves are located nearby: Tinderry Nature Reserve (NR), Burra Creek NR and Yanununbeyan State Conservation Area.

Burra is within the traditional area of the Ngarigo people, with evidence of occupation dated to at least 21,000 years. The main land uses in the area include grazing, conservation and bush residential properties.

The underlying geology is ancient sandstone beds topped by younger granite at 800-100 m. The weather is cool temperate with a low average annual rainfall of 600 mm. The area experiences cold winters and hot summers with dry lightning storms common. The main vegetation types found locally are Grasslands, Dry Sclerophyll Forests and Woodlands. Many areas around Burra may not have experienced fire in over 30 years.

This Hotspots workshop series attracted a mix of participants with 53 Burra residents attending. Fire management plans were developed for 31 properties, covering an area of 1805 hectares (including 802.8 hectares of native vegetation). As a group, this community explored ways in which they could undertake management actions to reduce fire risk whilst also maintaining the biodiversity values of the Burra landscape.

* This project was funded by the NSW Rural Fire Service

*Thanks to the whole team for an informative and wonderful two days - and the opportunity to experience fire as a tool!*

- Burra Workshop Participant
This fire management landscape overview has been compiled by the Hotspots Fire Project. It serves merely as an aid to planning. The information contained herein reflects our understanding at the time of planning. We are learning more about fire and the environment every day and anticipate that some recommendations may change as new information comes to hand. Thus whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information presented herein is as accurate and well-informed as possible, those involved in compiling this plan take no responsibility for any outcomes, actions or losses resulting either directly or indirectly from the information, interpretation or implementation. This plan is intended to be used in conjunction with the help of experts and good neighbour relations. For further information on the Hotspots Fire Project:

**HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT**
Fire Management for the Burra Area
Content developed April 2014

This map was created by NSW RFS in April 2014.

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**THE VEGETATION & STATE WIDE FIRE INTERVAL GUIDELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetation Formation</th>
<th>Vegetation Class</th>
<th>Ecosystem types (Species dominance)</th>
<th>State Wide Fire Interval Guideline</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry Sclerophyll Forests</td>
<td>Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests</td>
<td>Brittle Gum Eucalyptus manjunensis, Scribbly Gum E. rossii, Red Stag crazy E. macroprycha, Apple Box Eucalyptus bridgesiana, Yellow Box E. melliodora, Broad-leaved Peppermint E. divers. Usually on less fertile soils</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>30 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasswoodlands</td>
<td>Tableland Clay Grasslands</td>
<td>White Sally E. pauciflora, Black Sally E. stellulata, Ribbon Gum E. viminalis, Yellow Box. Usually on more fertile soils</td>
<td>8 yrs</td>
<td>40 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland</td>
<td>Southern Tableland Grasslands</td>
<td>Apple Box, Red Stag crazy, Blakely's red gum E. alata, Large flowered Bundy E. nortoni, Yellow Box</td>
<td>8 yrs</td>
<td>40 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subalpine Grassland</td>
<td>Southern Tableland Grasslands</td>
<td>White Sally, Black Sally, Mountain Gum E. diaplymax, Candlebark E. rubida subsp. rubida. Above 1000 m</td>
<td>8 yrs</td>
<td>40 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Sclerophyll Forests</td>
<td>Southern Tableland Wet Sclerophyll Forests</td>
<td>Ribbon Gum, Narrow-leaved Peppermint E. rubidus E. robustus, Broad-leaved peppermint, Apple Box, Mountain Mum. On moderate to high fertility soils in protected locations</td>
<td>15 yrs</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasslands</td>
<td>Temperate Montane Grasslands</td>
<td>Snow Grass Poa sieberiana var. sieberiana, Tussock Ph. labradorii, Kangaroo Grass Themeda australis. A diverse range of herbs and orchids present between tussocks</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Wetlands</td>
<td>Montane Bogs and Fens</td>
<td>A diverse range of shrubs, herbs, sedges, fens, mosses, grasses and grass-like plants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**IDENTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

**Hazard Reduction**

- **Prescribed Burning** to reduce risk of wildfire, protect assets (including fences, sheds and farm machinery), encourage biodiversity, establish a broader landscape burning mosaic and re-establish native grasslands.
- **Mechanical Clearing** to improve access and egress of property, create fire breaks, create and maintain Asset Protection Zones and improve, clear or create fire trails.

**Biodiversity**

- Flora and fauna surveys
- Bush and native grasslands regeneration
- Weed management
- Stock control
- Erosion control

**Community**

- Be involved in the Bush Fire Risk Management Planning process
- Develop a local Community Hazard Reduction Plan
- Join the local Fire Brigade
- Develop local Hotspots Groups
- Cooperate with neighbours to manage fire across the local landscape for both biodiversity and fire protection

*Please note: This is a list of the types of follow up actions that participants identified as part of their individual fire management plans.*

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**THE LANDSCAPE**

- Burra is located at the eastern end of the Murumbidgee River catchment south of Queanbeyan in the South Eastern Highland Bioregion. It lies within the traditional lands of the Ngarrigo people.
- Ancient sandstone beds topped by younger granite at 800-150 m metres with an annual average rainfall of 600 mm.
- The main land uses include grazing, conservation and bush residential properties.
- Native vegetation includes Grasslands, Dry Sclerophyll Forests and Woodlands.

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**FIRE HISTORY**

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**LOCAL & WORKSHOP SERIES CONTACTS**

- NSW Rural Fire Service: Chris Quinn - Community Safety Officer Lake George Zone. Email: chris.quinn@rfs.nsw.gov.au
- National Parks & Wildlife Services: Magnolia Suzuki-Filipe - Ranger. Email: Magnolia.Suzuki@environment.nsw.gov.au
- Hotspots Ecologist: Kevin Taylor. Email: ktaylor@hnccnsw.org.au

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**THREATENED SPECIES**

- **STATUS**
  - FIRE ECOLOGY (management requirements)
    - Diamond Firetail Stenagraurus guttatus (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Glossy Black Cockatoo Calyptorhynchus lathami (Vulnerable)
    - No burning or mechanical removal of Allocasuarina thickets. Protect existing and future hollow-bearing trees for nest sites
    - Powerful Owl Ninox strenua (Vulnerable)
    - No burning around known nesting sites at any time. No slashing, trittering or tree removal or of known known nesting sites. Apply fine-intensity, mouse/patient fuel reduction regimes. Retain large areas of native vegetation, especially those containing hollow bearing trees
    - Koala Phascolarctos cinereus (Vulnerable)
    - Avoid crown fires. No removal of locally preferred feed trees or which will reduce connectivity in fragmented landscapes
    - Eastern Bristle-billed Darwiatinia schmidelinae (Vulnerable)
    - No fire around known roost sites. No slashing around maternity caves
    - Eastern Pygmy-possum Cercartetus nanus (Vulnerable)
    - Protect hollows. No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Gang Gang Cockatoo Calyptorhynchus chalcophrys (Vulnerable)
    - Protect hollows
    - Spotted-tailed Quoll Dasyurus maculatus (Vulnerable)
    - Avoid burning or disturbing known den sites. Avoid burning late winter/spring when young are born.
    - Eastern Pygmyibr Alexandra dactylomelas (Vulnerable)
    - Protect hollows. No removal of trees
    - Black Robin Petroica boodang (Vulnerable)
    - Protect hollows. No removal of trees
    - Flame Robin Petroica phoenicea (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Hooded Robin Myiomela ausasia curvulata (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Varied Sittella Daphoenositta chrysoptera (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal. Protect hollows
    - Brown Treecreeper Climacteris picipes victoriae (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Specked Warbler Chthonicola ssp (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Rose-breasted Monitor Varanus gouldii (Vulnerable)
    - Minimize loss of dead fallen timber
    - Pink-tailed legless lizard Iguana pumilura (Vulnerable)
    - Minimize loss of dead fallen timber
    - Michelago parrot-pea Chrysanthona glaucescens (Endangered)
    - No fire more than once every 10 years. No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Black Gum Eucalyptus eggrangeptelea (Vulnerable)
    - No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Button Wrinkled Rockibyalestia leporidicollis (Endangered)
    - No fire more than once every 5 years. No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Small Purple Pea Swainsonia stricta (Endangered)
    - No fire more than once every 5 years. No slashing, trittering or tree removal
    - Silky Swainson Pea Swainsonia arvensis (Vulnerable)
    - No fire more than once every 5 years. No slashing, triterring or tree removal

*Please note: Fire management recommendations are based on the assumption that the species are being managed in an intact or near intact landscape. Variation in management requirements will be necessary when dealing with disturbed landscapes. It is important to follow up on local knowledge in support of better management decisions.**