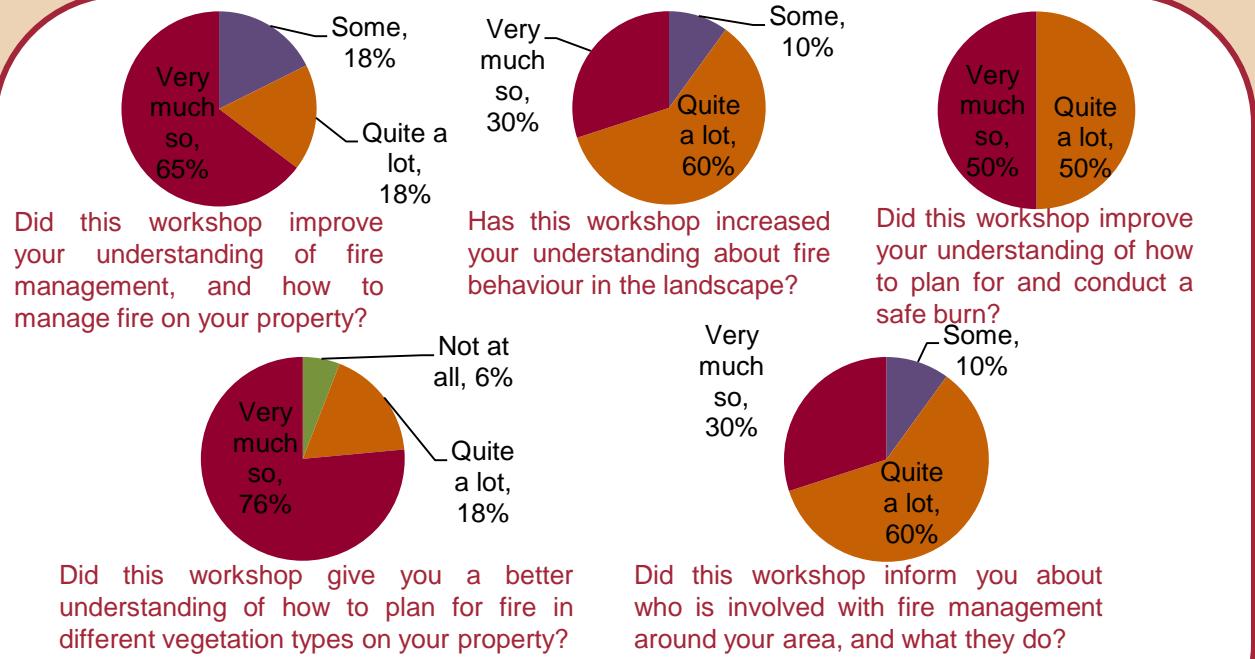


# Objectives for the Upper Lansdowne workshop series

- 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



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

## Workshop achievements

- As a result of the Hotspots workshop series, residents of Upper Lansdowne have planned property fire management plans, and actions to implement these plans. These plans include actions to reduce their risk, protect the environment, and produce seed for timber production.
- The Greater Taree RFS District office will be working closely with landholders to implement their plans, and achieve outcomes identified in the areas bush fire risk management plan.



## UPPER LANSDOWNE WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT\* Workshop 1 (22/11/2011) and Workshop 2 (27/04/2012)



*“Thank you for empowering us with the correct knowledge, and advising that there is help available, and the relevant contacts”*  
Upper Lansdowne Hotspots participant

Lansdowne is part of the Lorne Basin and located at the north-eastern edge of the Manning Valley. The rocky Lansdowne Escarpment (‘the escarpment’) to the north of Central Lansdowne is the most prominent landscape feature in the north of the Manning Valley. These landscapes are within the traditional lands of the Biripai people who have had a strong connection to their nation for tens of thousands of years.

The Lansdowne River floodplain is occupied by forested Coastal Floodplain Wetlands. To the north and west of the floodplain the vegetation changes to Wet and Dry Sclerophyll Forests. Wet Sclerophyll Forests occupy wetter and more fertile sites, whilst Dry Sclerophyll Forests occur on relatively infertile and drier ridgeline sites on sandstone and conglomerate.

Rainforests require higher moisture levels and generally fertile soils. Large areas of Subtropical Rainforest are confined to the escarpment with small floodplain fragments of remnant Subtropical Rainforest dominated by Weeping Myrtle (*Waterhousea floribunda*).

This Hotspots workshop series attracted a mix of participants with 25 residents of Upper Lansdowne attending, covering an area of 1049 hectares (including 766 hectares of native vegetation) over the 21 properties. As a group, this community collectively explored ways in which they could undertake management actions to reduce fire risk whilst also maintaining the biodiversity values of the Upper Lansdowne landscape.

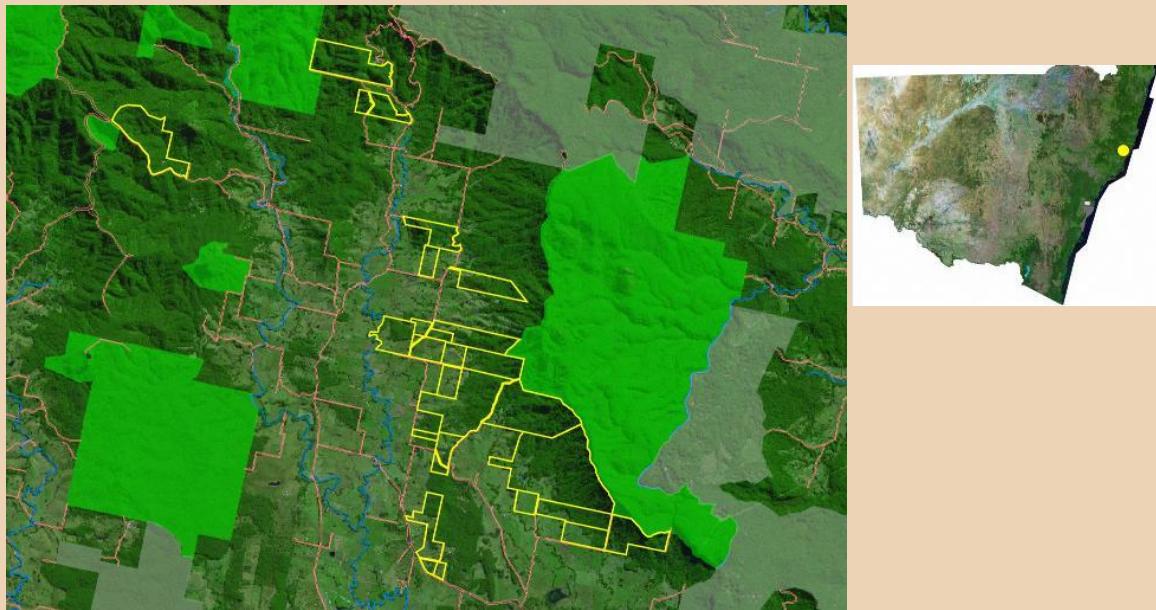
Under the guidance of the nine project partners in the Advisory Committee, Hotspots is delivered through the coordinated efforts of the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.



\* This project was funded by the NSW Rural Fire Service through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program

## Fire Management for the Upper Lansdowne Area

Content developed November 2011

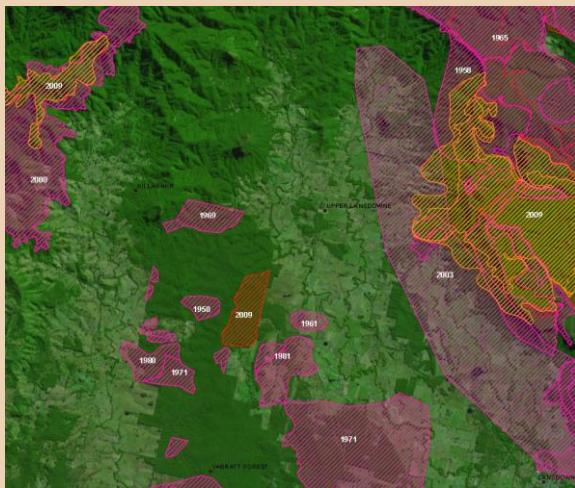


This fire management landscape overview has been compiled by the Hotspots Fire Project. It serves merely as an aid to planning. The information contained herein reflects our understanding at the time of planning. We are learning more about fire and the environment every day and anticipate that some recommendations 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 interpretation, misinterpretation 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:



Email [hotspots@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hotspots@rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
Or visit [www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au](http://www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au)  
This map has been created by NSW RFS in November 2011

### FIRE HISTORY



### IDENTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS\*

This workshop series worked with 20 properties in Upper Lansdowne covering an area of 1049 hectares (which includes 766 hectares of native vegetation)

#### Actions identified in the workshop series include:

- Low intensity hazard reduction burning in mosaic patterns
- Mechanical hazard reduction work - underscrubbing
- Do nothing – protect pockets of riverine and rainforest vegetation
- Apply low intensity burning to germinate seeds for timber production
- Spring seed for tree regrowth for harvest
- Protect the environment through strategic implementation of low intensity fire to reduce fuel loads

\* **Please note:** This is a listing of the types of follow up actions that participating landholders have identified as part of their individual fire management plans.

### LOCAL & WORKSHOP SERIES CONTACTS

<b>NSW Rural Fire Service:</b> Terry Kitching 6591 2904	<b>Hotspots Facilitator:</b> Brian Milsom 8741 5438
<b>National Parks &amp; Wildlife Services:</b> Kevin Carter 6539 4104	<b>Hotspots Ecologist:</b> Mark Graham <a href="mailto:mgraham@nccnsw.org.au">mgraham@nccnsw.org.au</a>
<b>Hunter Central Rivers CMA:</b> Derek Monks 6551 8994	<b>State Forests:</b> Mark Drury 0427 677 089

### THE LANDSCAPE

\* Dominated by the Lansdowne Escarpment, part of an extensive forested corridor linking the Great Dividing Range and the coast. Climate is humid subtropical with rainfall exceeding 1600 mm p.a.

\* Soils vary from fertile alluvium on the floodplain of Cross Creek and the Lansdowne River to fertile volcanic krasnozem soils along the Lansdowne Escarpment and relatively infertile and shallow soils on rocky conglomerate and sandstone ridgelines adjoining Coorabakh National Park.

• Land uses include grazing, dairying, cropping, horticulture, forestry, lifestyle and nature conservation

### THE VEGETATION & STATE WIDE FIRE INTERVAL GUIDELINE

Vegetation Formation	Vegetation Class	Ecosystem types (Species dominance)	Min State Wide Fire Interval Guideline	Max State Wide Fire Interval Guideline	Comments
Rainforest	*Subtropical	<i>Ficus macrophylla</i> subsp. <i>macrophylla</i> (Moreton Bay fig), <i>Waterhousea floribunda</i> (weeping myrtle)	n/a	n/a	No Fire
Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate	<i>Acmena smithii</i> (lilly pilly), <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> (sassafras)	n/a	n/a	No Fire
Rainforest	*Dry	<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i> (grey myrtle)	n/a	n/a	No Fire
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (shrubby)	North Coast	<i>E. ucalyptus grandis</i> (flooded gum), <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> (brush box)	25yrs	60yrs	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (grassy)	Northern Hinterland	<i>E. microcorys</i> (tallowwood), <i>E. pilularis</i> (blackbutt)	10yrs	50yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 15yrs may be desirable. Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Grassy Woodlands	Coastal Valley	<i>E. tereticornis</i> (forest red gum)	5yrs	40yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 25yrs may be desirable
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (grassy)	Hunter-Macleay	<i>E. propinqua</i> (grey gum), <i>E. siderophloia</i> (northern grey ironbark),	7yrs	30yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 25yrs may be desirable
Heathlands	Northern Montane Heath	<i>Banksia conferta</i> ssp. <i>conferta</i> (Glasshouse banksia).	7yrs	30yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 20yrs may be desirable
Freshwater Wetlands	*Coastal Freshwater Lagoons	<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i> (river buttercup), <i>Triglochin procera</i> (water ribbons), <i>Eleocharis</i> spp. (spike rushes)	n/a	n/a	No Fire
Forested Wetlands	*Coastal Swamp Forest	<i>E. robusta</i> (swamp mahogany), <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> (broad-leaved paperbark)	7yrs	35yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 20yrs may be desirable

### THREATENED SPECIES

STATUS	FIRE ECOLOGY (management requirements)*
Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> - (Vulnerable)	Apply low intensity, mosaic pattern fuel reduction burns in or adjacent to Koala habitat. Retain suitable habitat, especially areas dominated by preferred feed-tree species. Avoid crown fires.
Yellow Bellied Glider <i>Petaurus australis</i> - (Vulnerable)	Retain den trees and recruitment trees (future hollow-bearing trees), retain food sources, particularly sap-feeding trees, retain and protect areas of habitat and maintain connectivity between habitat patches.
Little Bent Wing Bat <i>Miniopterus australis</i> - (Vulnerable)	Exclude fire from within 100m of maternity cave, winter roost or other significant roost entrances and ensure smoke / flames do not enter these roosts. Retain stands of native vegetation, particularly within 10km of roost.
Bush Stone – curlew <i>Burhinus grallarius</i> – (Endangered)	No burning from 1 August to 31 March, and no more than once every 2 years. Retain logs on ground.
Powerful Owl <i>Ninox strenua</i> - (Vulnerable)	Apply low intensity, mosaic pattern fuel reduction regimes. Retain large areas of native vegetation, especially those containing hollow-bearing trees that are used as nest sites.
Wompoo Fruit Dove <i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i> - (Vulnerable)	No fire. Protect remnant rainforest patches during burning activities and protect known food trees.
Glossy Black Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> - (Vulnerable)	Reduce the impact of burning to retain diverse understorey species, in particular to permit the regeneration of she-oaks. Protect existing and future hollow-bearing trees for nest sites.
Square Tailed Kite <i>Lophoictinia isura</i> - (Vulnerable)	Protect known habitat from fires of a frequency greater than that recommended for the maintenance of biodiversity. Retain and protect nesting and foraging habitat, particularly along watercourses.
Stephens' Banded Snake <i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i> - (Vulnerable)	Manage fire to protect and retain old and dead trees and maintain understorey vegetation. Protect rainforest from fire.
Stuttering Frog <i>Mixophyes balbus</i> - (Endangered)	No burning within 100m of streams. Manage burning off so that streamside habitats do not suffer loss of moisture or leaf-litter, maintain vegetation and deep leaf-litter around streams.
Trailing Woodruff <i>Asperula asthenes</i> - (Vulnerable)	No fire adjacent to watercourses
Tree Guinea Flower <i>Hibbertia hexandra</i> - (Endangered)	No fire more than once every 25 years, no fire in rainforest

\* **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. Black text is derived from RFS Codes of Practice. Blue text is derived from expert input.