



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF
LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NAFM 2015

Bushfires NT

Cairns 30th June



2014 the year that was

- Large Grass fire that burnt in the lower Top End/ Tanami affecting approximately Five million hectares
- Sixty Fire Ban Days in the Top End due to above average 2014 wet season, continued presence of exotic grasses with extremely dry conditions for an eight month period.





2014 MurrANJI Fire

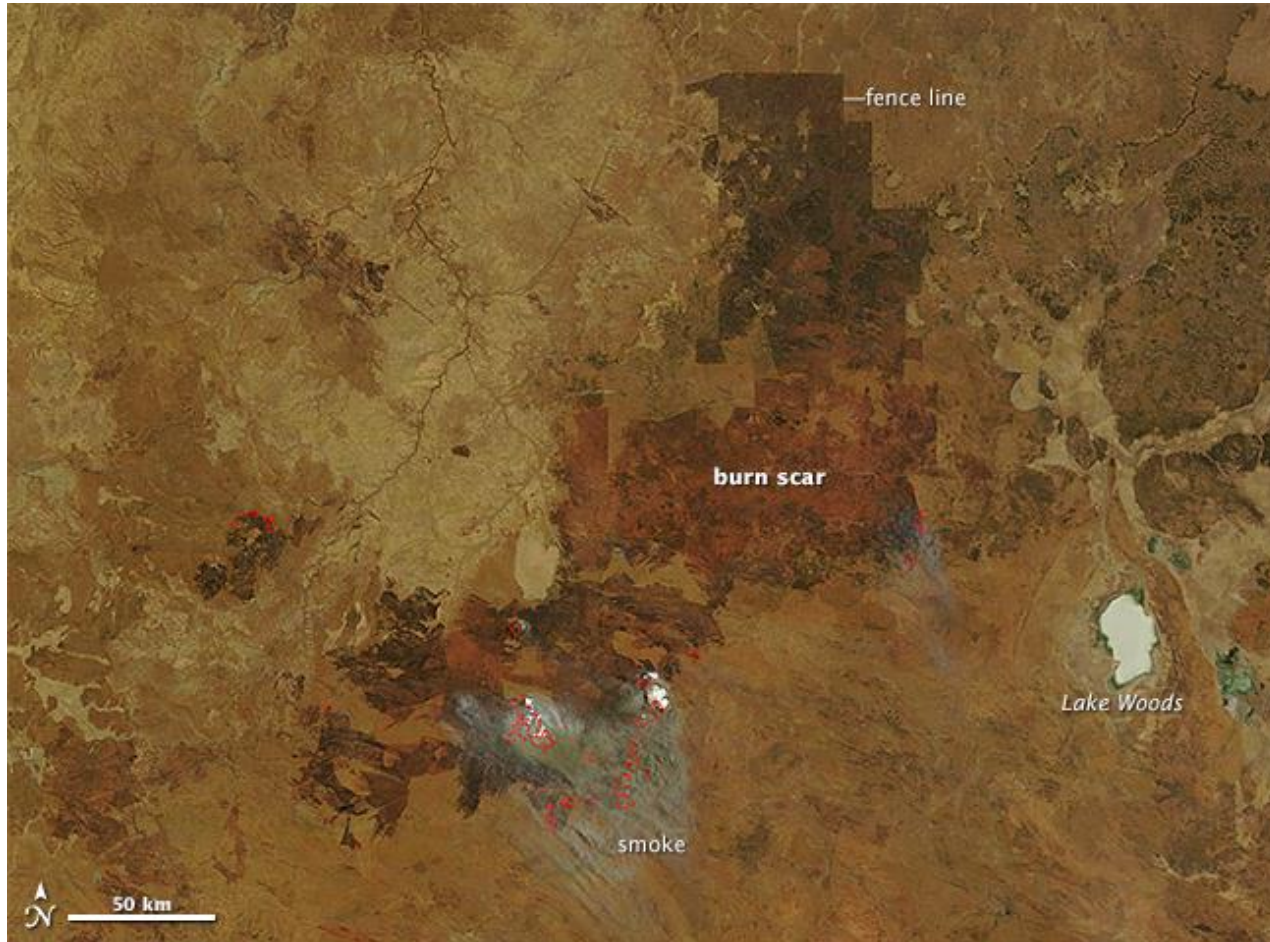


Image taken on the 7th of October 2014 by NASA Earth observatory



2014/ 15 Conditions

- Wet season began in December with good initial rain across the Top End and continued into January.
- Limited monsoonal activity occurred between February and April with significant rain only occurring during cyclonic activity
- Led to average pasture growth across the majority of the Territory.
- Indicating most Regions will experience an average fire season



NT Bioregions

IBRA SubRegion	Abbreviation	Region	Rainfall	Pasture Growth	Mitigation Factors	Mitigation works	Fire Potential Summary
Tiwi Cobourg	TIW	Top End	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Darwin Coast	DAC	Top End	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning & Grazing	Above Average	Average
Arnhem Coast	ARC	Top End	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Pine Creek	PCK	Top End	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning & Grazing	Above Average	Average
Arnhem Plateau	ARP	Top End	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Central Arnhem	CEA	Savannas	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Daly Basin	DAB	Savannas	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Victoria Bonapatre	VIB	Savannas	Average	Average	APB & Grazing	Average	Average
Ord Victoria Plains	OVP	Savannas	Average	Average	Grazing & Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Sturt Plateau	STU	Savannas	Above Average	Average	Grazing & limited Prescribed Burning	Average	Above Average
Gulf Fall & Uplands	GFU	Savannas	Average	Average	Grazing & Prescribed Burning	Average	Average
Gulf Coastal & Gulf Plains	GUC	Savannas	Below Average	Average	Prescribed Burning & limited grazing	Above Average	Average
Tanami	TAN	Arid	Average	Average	Prescribed Burning & grazing	Average	Average
Davenport Murchison Ranges	DMR	Arid	Above Average	Average	Grazing	Average	Average
Burt Plain	BRT	Arid	Above Average	Average	Limited Grazing	Average	Average
MacDonnell	MAC	Arid	Average	Below	Limited Grazing	Average	Average
Finke & Stony Plains	FIN	Arid	Average	Below	Limited Grazing	Average	Below Average
Central Ranges	CER	Arid	Average	Below	Nil	Average	Below Average



Mitigation

- Five thousand kilometres of aerial burning completed
- Advice, materials & equipment provided to 100+ landholders with sizeable property to increase early season burning
- 760 kilometres of strategic fire breaks established, further works ongoing
- 180+ Volunteers & other stakeholders trained in 2014/15



Future....

- Increased fuel loads from six tons to thirteen tons has impacted significantly on Fire Ban Day's. Average rising from 17 to 38
- Raises the question is the MacArthur Grassland Meter the best tool when t/ha > 6 ton
- Is there another option / model to assess weather and conditions that influences fires in the north.