bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD)

Improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

Dr Mel Taylor
Centre for Health Research, University of Western Sydney, NSW

PROJECT TEAM

University of Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life

CQUniversity AUSTRALIA

RSPCA Queensland

Mel Taylor   Penny Burns

Kirrilly Thompson   Bradley Smith

Greg Eustace

Suellen Flint,
Director Community
Engagement

Peter Cinque
Region Controller
(Sydney Western Region)

Andrew Stark
Chief Officer,
ACT RFS

Katrina Beard
Manager – Education,
Research, Training

Sandra Barber
Manager Community
Education

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES
Department of Fire &
Emergency Services

SES
NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Australian Emergency
Management Institute

Tasmania
Fire Service

ANIMALS IN DISASTERS

THE ISSUES

- The management of animals in disasters is complex

- Issues poorly understood/not systematically reviewed

- Consideration of animals can impact on people's decision making and behaviour causing potential issues for public and responder safety

- Some people
  - don't plan for what they'll do with animals
  - risk their lives to save animals
  - fail/refuse to evacuate
  - abandon animals
  - have unrealistic expectations if they evacuate
  - return early to rescue animals
  - grieve and mourn for lost animals

Pets dilemma for rescue workers

ROSANNE BARRETT, SARAH ELKS The Australian February 11, 2013 12:00AM

A chopper plucks a man and his dog from a boat on the Burnett River. Picture: AGL Action Rescue Helicopter Source: The Australian

AIMS

The main aim of this project is to identify the best practice approaches to the management of animals in disasters that result in optimal outcomes for public safety, and longer term mental and physical health of responders, animal owners and those with animal-related businesses, and communities.

APPROACH

Year	2013/4						2014/5												2015/6												2016/7									
Month (No.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Scoping																																								
Field work																																								
Development																																								
Assessment																																								
Adoption																																								

Scoping activities (Year 1)

Critical audit: formal policies, procedures and local initiatives, current research

Responders: organisational priorities, responder experiences and needs

Owners: preparedness, expectations, experiences, needs

'Informal' responders: activities, perceived roles, collaboration with responders

Knowledge exchange workshop: one-day meeting, invited attendees (Sydney, June)

OUTCOMES EXPECTED

- Systematic and critical evaluation of the broad systems issues – challenges and needs

- Identification of gaps in knowledge/action and prioritisation of those areas suitable for development of support tools/materials

- Directed in-depth understanding of the priority areas (through field studies) to inform tool development

- A set of prototype evidence-informed support tools/materials that have been subject to initial assessment