




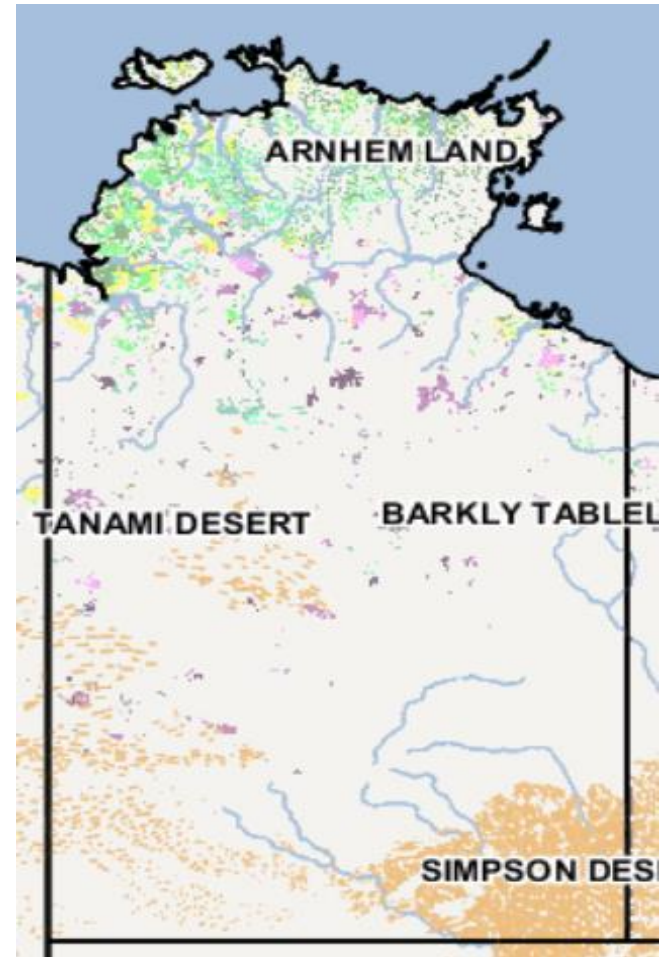
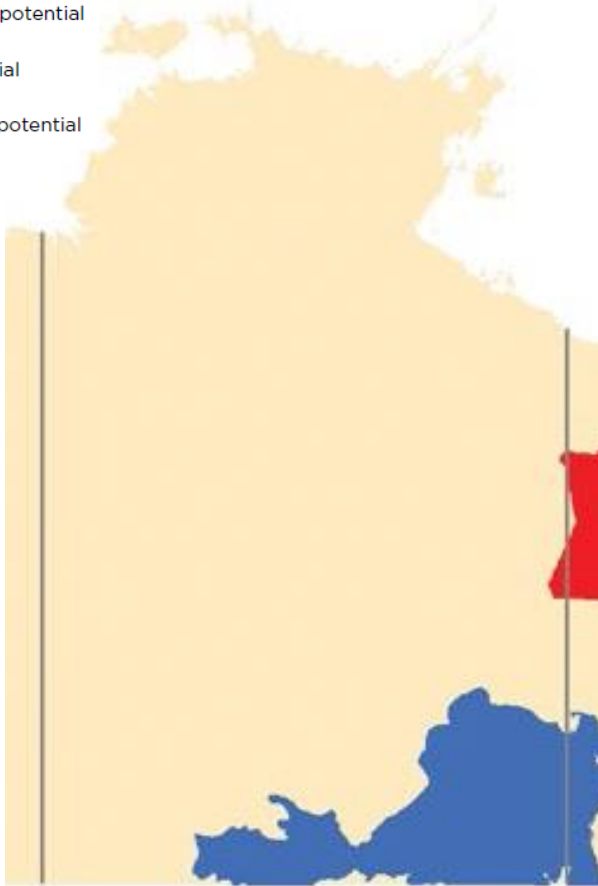
North Australia Fire Managers Forum Bushfires NT Report 2016/2017

Kununurra, WA

20th June 2017

2016 what was predicted vs what occurred

-  Above normal fire potential
-  Normal fire potential
-  Below normal fire potential



Review of 2016

- 22 Fire Weather Warnings(FWW) were issued 2016 across the NT
 - Approximately 50% of the usual average
 - 15 were issued from the 1st may to 30th September
 - 7 from 1st October to 30th April.
- Regular strong wind events were limited, majority FWW issued based on curing and fuel loads
- Early onset of the Top End wet season in September reduced ongoing fire threat
- The 2016 fire season assessment of average or below proved to be mostly accurate (may have extended area of below average)

Factors Affecting 2017

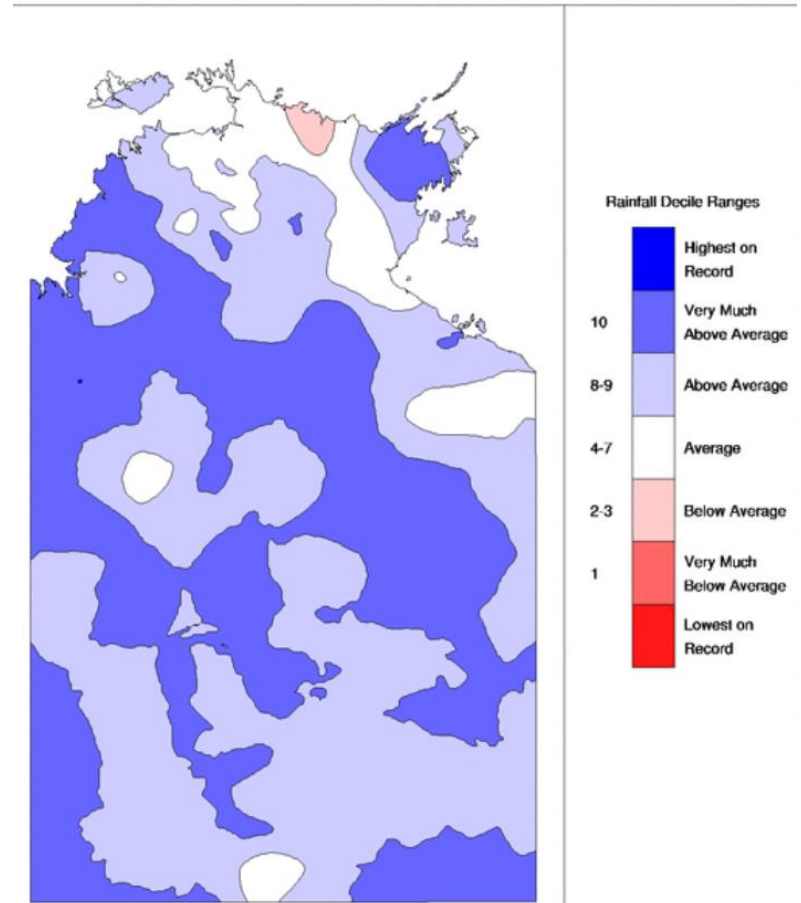
- Prolonged wet season with all IBRA regions receiving significant totals leading to increased fuel loads
- Introduced grass weed distribution ongoing effects and spread
- Early strong wind events already occurring hampering mitigation programs (Top End)
- Loss of funding beyond July 1st for key projects including the Tanami, Carpentaria Land Council & BFNT Strategic Firebreaks Program

NT Rainfall Anomalies

- 2016 September rain eased fire concerns
- Rainfall fell regularly and consistently
- Consecutive rain events over the past 24 months through Central Australia steadily increasing fuel loads
- Mitigation burning has been more widespread than usual including Central Australia
- Curing has been inconsistent across the Territory affecting mitigation burns

Northern Territory Rainfall Deciles 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2017

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

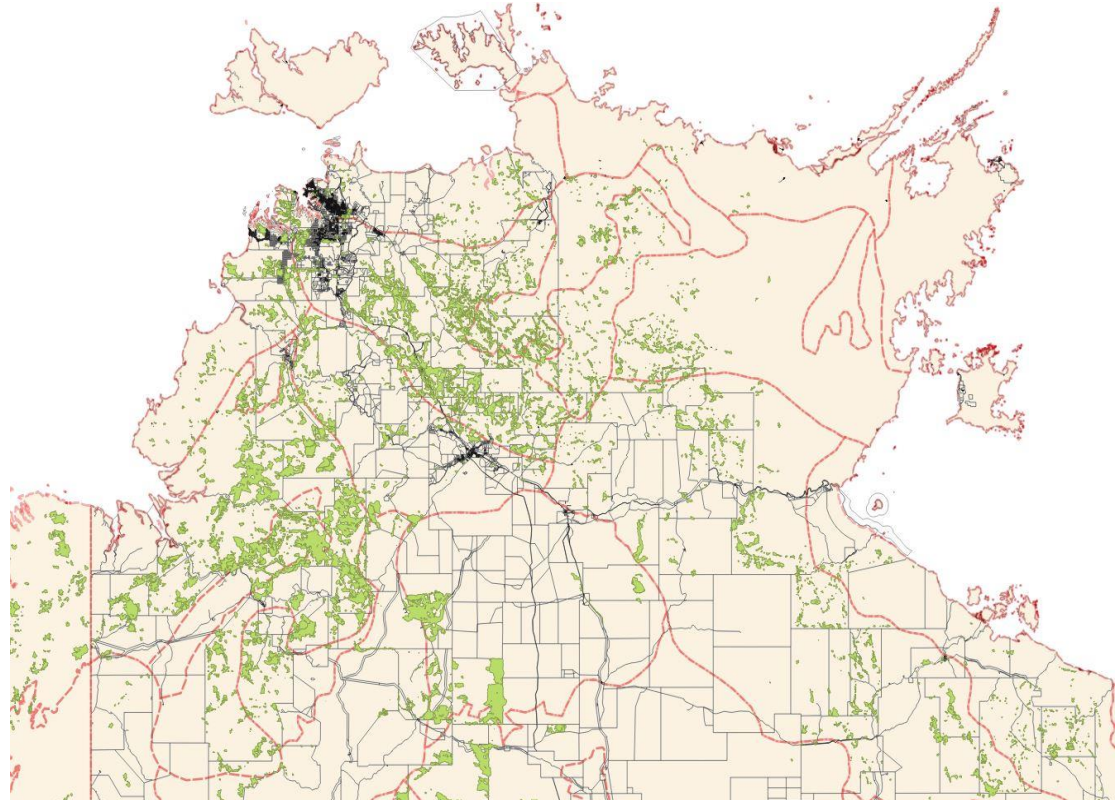


Process to determine

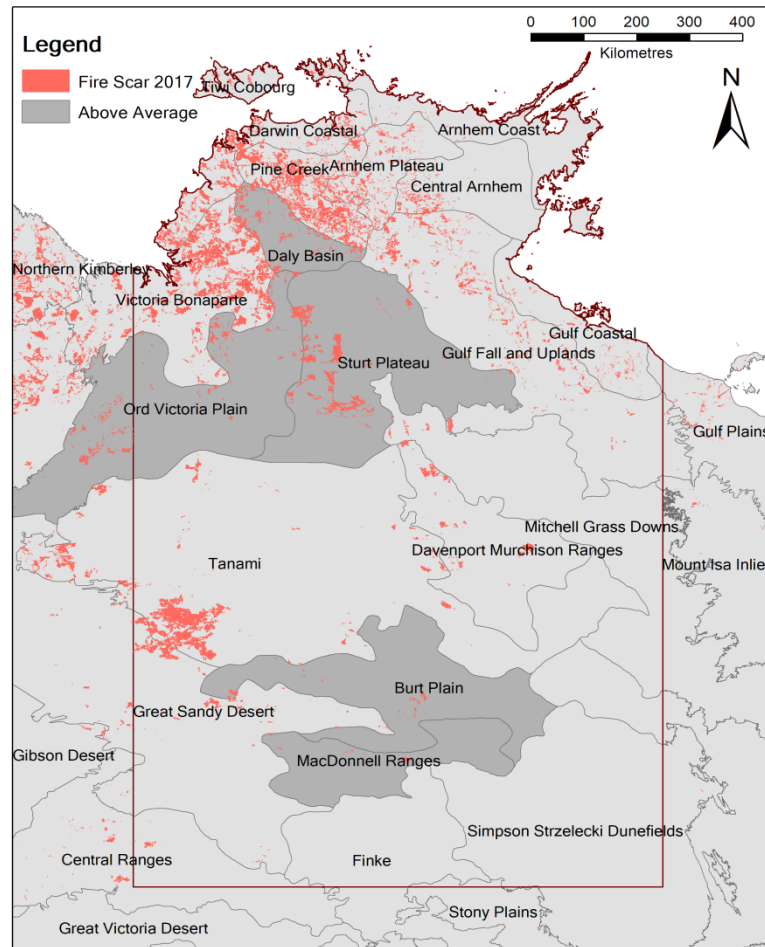
IBRA Region	Rainfall (previous 6 mths)	Pasture Growth (previous 6 mths)	Local Rainfall Comment	fine accumulated fuels (above)	Other accumulated fuels (above 600mm)	Specific Fire weeds Gamba/Buffel (estimated %)	Grassy weeds impact/influence	Mitigation factors considered	Mitigation works planned/implemented	Mitigation effectiveness	Local Mitigation Comment	Longpad dock curing compari	Local Curing Comment	Suppression Resource Preparedness	Bushfire Potential Summar
Sturt Plateau	Above Average	Average	consistent rain led to good grass growth			Limited Gamba <1%	gamba little impact some potential to impact,	Grazing & limited Prescribed Burning	STU01: NIL ; STU02: Average; STU03: Average	STU01: ineffective; STU02: western very effective Eastern ineffective STU03: western effective eastern	Amount of burning dependent on individuals management objectives	extremely inaccurate	as expected	minimal and average	Above average, will reduce as year progresses and grazing reduces
Gulf Fall & Uplands	Above Average	Above Average	consistent rain led to good grass growth			Limited Gamba <1%, Grader Grass presence <10%	gamba little impact significant potential to impact,	Grazing & limited Prescribed Burning	GFU01: Above Average; GFU02: Average;	GFU01: eastern Effective, western limited effectiveness GFU02: ineffective	Amount of burning dependent on individuals management objectives	inaccurate	as expected	minimal and average	Above average, will reduce as year progresses and grazing reduces
Gulf Coastal & Gulf Plains	Above Average	Average	late rain impacting on curing and mitigation effort			Nil	Nil	Prescribed Burning & limited grazing	Average	Effective	Amount of burning dependent on individual management objectives	extremely inaccurate	as expected	extremely minimal and average	Average
Pine Creek	Well above average	Above average	Large wet season, retained soil moisture impacting mitigation effort. Lower soil moisture remains above average to very much above average and upper soil moisture is above average as at April 2017.			Gamba > 30%	considerable gamba impact	Prescribed Burning, Grazing, APB	Ground burning and APB. Some CFI activity. Above average	Very effective	Some issues with access to country because of large wet season. Mitigation programs in the Primary Response Zone being hindered due to retained ground moisture increased APB activity due to CPI activity	extremely inaccurate		Primary Response Zone, Above Average, remainder: average	Average except for highly populated Litchfield and Coomalie Shire which would be Above Average.
Daly Basin	Above Average	Above average	Large wet season, retained soil moisture impacting mitigation effort. Lower soil moisture remains above average to very			Gamba > 10%	Gamba impacting on fire behaviour and increase with spread	Prescribed Burning, Grazing, APB	Ground Burning and APB. Average	effective but limited	Some issues with access to country because of large wet season, increased APB activity due to CPI activity	extremely inaccurate		Average	Above Average Will reduce as year progresses and

Above Average Fire Potential

- Daly River Basin
- Ord Victoria Plains
- Sturt Plateau
- MacDonnell Ranges
- Burt Plains



IBRA Regions



2017 Possible Concerns

- Reduced capacity to manage fires in key areas due to the end of project funding
- High fuel loads across the Territory
- Continuing build up of fuel in Central Australia
- Limited capacity for bushfire management within remote communities.
- Forecast delayed onset of 2017/18 Wet Season???

Thank you