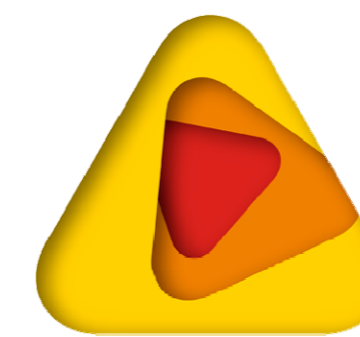# MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD)
Improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

bushfire&natural HAZARDS CRC

Mel Taylor[1], Megan McCarthy[1], Kirrilly Thompson[2], Lisel O'Dwyer[2], Greg Eustace[3,] Penny Burns[4]

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AIM: To identify and build best practice approaches to animal emergency management to enable engagement with animal owners, and other stakeholders in disasters and emergencies

Exploring different perspectives on Animal Emergency Management (AEM) Driven by stakeholder needs and challenges

Integration of informal groups and extending organisations into AEM

- Used January 2015 Sampson Flat bushfire in SA as a case study.
- Examined the benefits and challenges of integrating informal groups into the formal emergency response.
- In-depth interviews with people directly involved in the animal response (formal, extending, and informal groups)
- Found successful cooperation and coordination among the groups.
- Challenges in communication, engaging with volunteers, and staffing the response.

Outputs
Publication (submitted) documenting study findings, identifying best practice approaches to support the integration of animal organisations into the formal AEM system.

Animal owner-responder interface

- Investigating behavior of animal owners, and their interactions with emergency responders in bushfires.
- Identifying challenges and solutions.
- Interviews and focus groups in the Port Lincoln/Eyre Peninsula region of SA.
- Special attention to farming communities.

Outputs
Policy suggestions – research identified policy options to support bushfire preparedness in rural communities.
'Fire fit' concept – making bushfire preparedness as routine as putting fuel in the car or buying the groceries.
Suggested farming practices – ways to support bushfire mitigation.

Supporting community-led AEM

- Working with a community-led group (Blue ARC) in the Blue Mountains, NSW.
- Assisting and documenting the establishment of an Animal Ready Community (ARC). Preparedness and planning for animals (and households).
- Community survey, veterinary services audit, and stakeholder interviews.
- Identifying community experiences, local barriers to emergency planning for animals, and information needs.

Outputs
'How to' Guide and Resource Pack (planned) – to support other communities to promote emergency preparedness and planning through a focus on animals.
Community training (planned) – outlines for short, low-cost courses for communities, e.g. animal first aid, and suite of animal handling videos.
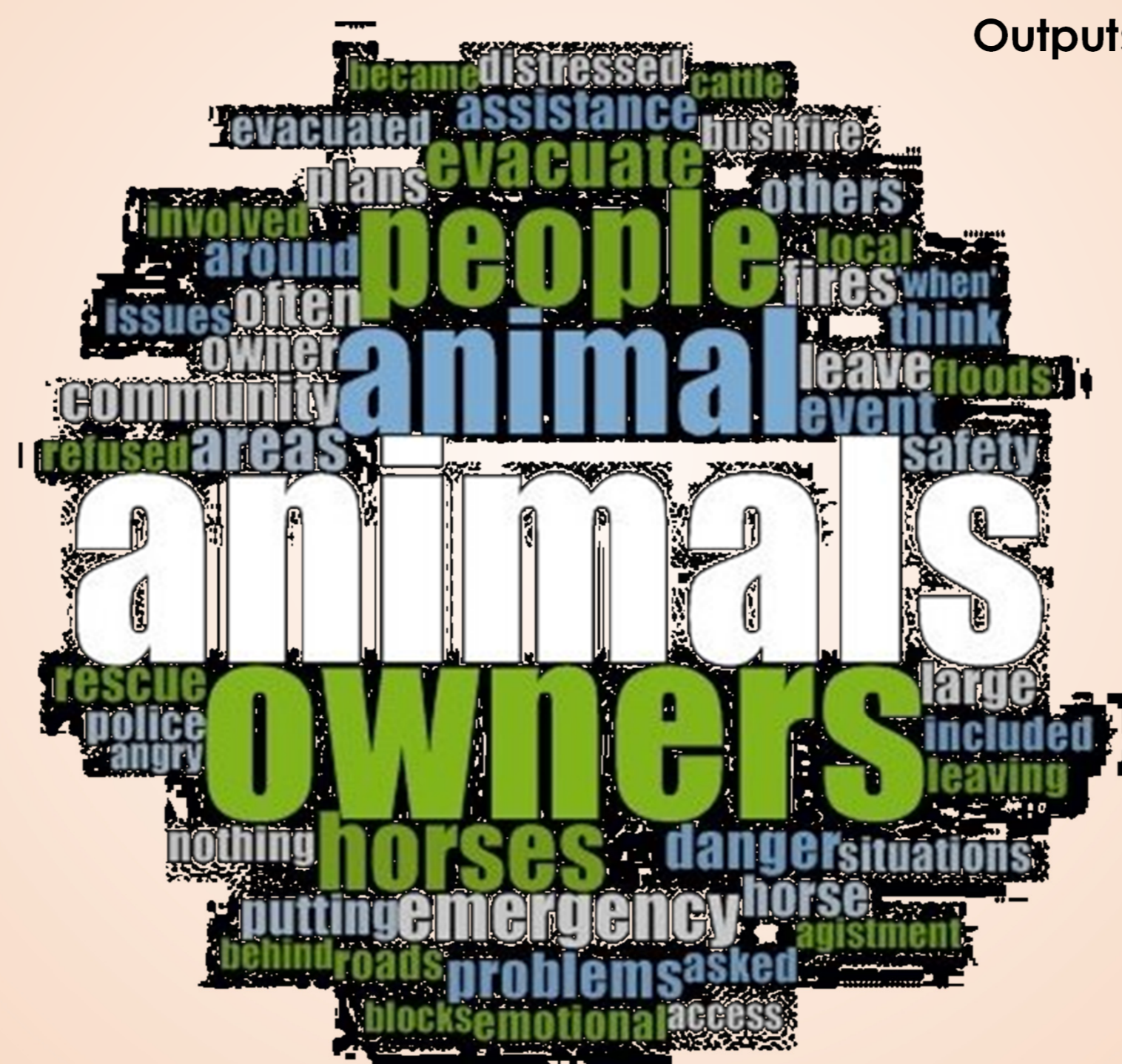
Animal owner experiences

- Exploring experiences of horse owners impacted by Sampson Flat bushfire and animal owners impacted by Pinery bushfire in SA.
- Online surveys of animal owners
- Majority of respondents included horses in their bushfire plans but few had written plans.
- Animal owners preferred to 'wait and see' in the case of fire threat even if they had planned to evacuate early.

Outputs
Guidance and advice - for horse, and other large animal, owners, emergency service organisations and other stakeholders.
Publication (submitted) – animal attachment and bushfire preparedness.

Mapping animals and owner intentions

- Focused on peri-urban large animal owners in TAS.
- Mapping animal populations in bushfire prone areas.
- Overlaid with data on owner preparedness and behavioural intentions.

Outputs (planned)
Publication - methodology for planning and anticipating demand and capacity for animals in evacuations.

MAiD Achievements
Developed knowledge base for Australian AEM. Identified stakeholder needs and challenges. Conducted audit of AEM in Australia. Provided support and advice to jurisdictions on state animal emergency planning.