

Bushfire and Emergency Risk Management Research Projects



bushfire&natural
HAZARDS CRC



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

- Two agreements
 - **2012 – Bushfire Risk Management Research Projects***
 - » 26 research projects, 15 individual or collaborative research groups
 - **2016 – Emergency Risk Management Research Projects**
 - » 4 projects
- These Agreements have enabled research that has helped re-frame and improve DELWP's understanding of bushfires and how we manage risk to the environment and our community.

*In December 2011 the then Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), now the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) established a Transfer Funding Agreement with the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (BCRC). When the BCRC closed in 2014 responsibility for the delivery of these projects was transferred to the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC (BNHCRC).



- **The Agreement provides overarching and consistent contract and governance arrangements covering issues such as:**
 - Intellectual property
 - Data management
 - Project management, and
 - Governance
- **Research projects**
 - DELWP identify policy/operational research needs
 - Develop project plan collaboratively with CRC
 - BNHCRC commission research and provide ongoing project management
 - Each project is a schedule to Agreement
- **DELWP support**
 - Dedicated Governance Support
 - Policy Leads to each project
 - Connects users/decision makers directly to researchers
 - Ensures research evolves

The combination of multiple complimentary research investments, including those enabled by this Agreement, has answered key policy needs, in particular giving DELWP the tools to support the implementation of *Safer Together* and the *Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2012*. Gains in our understanding and management of bushfire include:

- Improved ability to characterize and model severe bushfire
- Improved decision making about where to invest resources and plan bushfire risk reduction activities
- Improved bushfire and planned burn mapping
- Improved understanding and ability to mitigate the impact of bushfires on communities and communicate that risk to communities
- Improved ability to manage and communicate the impact of smoke during bushfires and planned burns
- Improved understanding of the impact of planned burning on biodiversity
- Improved ability to protect and promote fire sensitive species and habitats within foothills forests, and
- Improved data collection and data management in a way that better supports strategic bushfire management plan processes and guides the needs for future research.

Research outcomes have been shared at workshops, training sessions and operational situations, the DELWP Science Symposium 2015 and the Bushfire Science Forum 2014.

Key opportunities for DELWP:

- **Targeted short and medium term research projects that compliment our other long term research investments.**
- **Multiple outcomes – collaborative rather than fee for service**
 - Publications **and** knowledge translation
- **Efficiencies in “going to market” for innovative/ exploratory ideas**
 - Improving project design through innovation
 - Wide pool of research expertise
- **Leverage of significant co-investment from researchers and research institutions**
- **Connect and collaborate with sector and research partners**
 - Interstate and international



DELWP's research future:

- Better understanding of social values
- Modelling risk and different management options
- Integration of technology
- Connecting research outcomes
- Knowledge translation

