

2024 Fire Summit

Prescribed fire: Exploring science, culture and practice

Australia is one of the world's most wildfire prone countries, with wildfires severely impacting our environment, communities and economy. This is exacerbated by climate change and social change. What is working, what isn't, and what do we need to do differently?

Managers of public and private land are seeking responsible and effective fire management strategies of which prescribed fire and cultural burning practices can play an essential component. This summit will review and discuss cultural fire practices, evidence from recent wildfires, fire science, lived experience and current prescribed fire practices. The summit will also look to the future and consider more effective use of prescribed fire, health impacts of fire and smoke and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and forest scientists can encourage two-way capacity building to support healthy and resilient forests.

Day One | Wednesday 26 June 2024

07.30	Registration, arrival tea & coffee
08.30	Welcome to Country
08.50	#1: Opening & Dr Kevin Tolhurst AM Memorial Lecture Chair: Dr Michelle Freeman
09.15	#2: Cultural fire practices and Aboriginal forest management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachael Cavanagh, NSW • John Shipp, Forestry Corporation NSW
10.45	Morning tea
11.15	#3: Assessing the effectiveness of prescribed fire in reducing the spread and severity of unplanned fires Chair & facilitator: Dr Tom Fairman Two bushfires Ed Hatherley, Parks and Wildlife Service Western Australia, WA Title TBC Dr Jeremy Russell-Smith, Savanna Burning Network & Charles Darwin University Reducing bushfire risk using prescribed burning across all land tenures Courtney Bertram, Office of Bushfire Risk Management, DEECA, VIC Title TBC Tom Clapson, HQPlantations
12.45	Lunch
13.30	#4: Achieving land management goals using prescribed fire Chair & facilitator: Dr Tegan Brown

	<p>Lessons from the Strathbogies Chris Hardman, Forest Fire Management Victoria</p> <p>Re-introducing broadscale fire following timber harvesting and several decades of fire exclusion Dr Lachie McCaw, WA</p> <p>Planned Burning Prescriptions aligned with Land Management Objectives Dr Jane Cawson, University of Melbourne, VIC</p>
15.00	Afternoon tea
15.30	<p>#5: Panel: Prescribed fire research – encouraging effective practice, what are critical gaps and how can these be filled? Chair & facilitator: Gary Morgan AM AFSM</p> <p>Panel discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Rowena Morris, Natural Hazards Research Australia • Prof Trent Penman, The University of Melbourne, VIC • Sandra Whight, AFAC • Dr Thomas Duff, CFA, VIC
17.15	<p>Wrap up Facilitator: Gary Morgan</p>
17.30	Close
18.30	Casual networking dinner

Day Two | Thursday 27 June 2024

08.00	Registration, arrival tea & coffee
09.00	<p>#6: Fire communication Chair & facilitator: Jacquie Martin</p> <p>Actions required to improve forest fire management Euan Ferguson, Consultant</p> <p>Communicating the complexity of fire science David Bruce, Natural Hazards Research Australia</p> <p>How did we get the message so wrong? Tim Lee, Landline, ABC</p>
10.15	Morning tea
10.45	<p>#7: Prescribed fire for environmental and other values Chair & facilitator: Peter Leeson</p>

	<p>Enhancing forest resilience and protecting fire sensitive forests and water catchments with prescribed fire Dr Tony Bartlett, Consultant, ACT</p> <p>Practical bushfire management on private land: Red Hot Tips Dr Pep Turner, Tasmania Fire Service</p> <p>Saving our water supply through prescribed burn Shaun Lawlor, DEECA, VIC</p> <p>FESA in the Wombat Forest: Opportunities and challenges presented by long-term prescribed fire experiments A/Prof Lauren Bennett, The University of Melbourne</p>
12.30	Lunch
13.15	<p>#8: Fire management, health & risk</p> <p>What should fire fighters know from smoke research to manage their health? Dr Fabienne Reisen, CSIRO</p> <p>Identifying and managing dangerous trees when planned burning Paul de Mar, GHD</p> <p>Insights into long-term mental health impacts after catastrophic wildfire, and applying these insights to support a resilient forest fire management workforce Speaker TBC</p>
14.30	Afternoon tea
15.00	<p>#9: Prescribed fire: considerations on the way forward</p> <p>KPIs helping us to meet the National Fire Policy Statement goals Peter Leeson, Consultant</p> <p>Creating effective partnerships and engagement with stakeholders Rebel Talbert, FCNSW</p> <p>Developing an effective prescribed burning workforce & the National Burning Project Trevor Howard, AFAC</p>
16.30	<p>#10: Wrap up, resolutions & close Chairs: Gary Morgan AM AFSM & Dr Michelle Freeman</p>
17.00	Close