

Hotspots to work with Bush Fire Management Committees:

Hotspots staff will be working with Bush Fire Management Committees, to build relationships and develop strategies to strengthen the project in pilot areas and to hopefully introduce the project into new CMA areas in the future.

Hotspots offers a management tool in the face of climate change:

Current climate change models predict an increase in the number of days when fire danger ratings are very high to extreme, while the window of opportunity available for prescribed burning is expected to narrow. The Hotspots program has the capacity to assist communities to prepare for and build resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Funding Applications submitted to date:

Caring for our Country Open Grants Round. A \$400,000 funding application was submitted to compliment and build on the NSW Environmental Trust funding. The proposal will provide funding to deliver workshops in the Southern and Northern CMA regions and develop the ecological fire regime science for the Hunter Central Rivers CMA region. The application which incorporates a scoping module for a national Hotspots delivery approach, was supported by 7 Hotspots partner organisations.

George Alexander Foundation. A \$44,000 funding application was submitted to bring together members of Darkinjung Aboriginal community, 3 Central Coast High Schools, and local land management agencies and experts. Through professionally facilitated workshops participants will; view and discuss fire management practices and ecologically appropriate fire regimes in Brisbane Water National Park; study Aboriginal cultural fire and land management practices; and participate in conflict resolution and role playing practical exercises. This innovative proposal brings together many disparate issues that often need to be considered in determining the appropriate fire management for an area. If successful, it may prove to be a good pilot for other areas.

New Members to the Hotspots Advisory Committee:

Hotspots would like to officially welcome **Dr Penny Watson & Corinna Orscheg** of the University of Wollongong's Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, **Crs Allan Smith & Ray Donald** of the Local Government & Shires Association and **Steve Bishop** of Forests NSW to the Hotspots Advisory Committee (AC). The Advisory Committee meets every couple of months to oversee the direction of the project. We are very grateful for the time and effort that all the AC members put into the project thus making it a successful and dynamic partnership.

Up-Coming Events:

Hotspots Fire Project Workshop 3

Following feedback from landholders who have participated in Workshops 1 & 2, it has been recognised that further support may be needed to assist landholders in completing their fire management plans and/or implementing some of their actions.

Therefore, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) together with the Hotspots Project team are offering a third workshop to landholders in 2009. This workshop will include topics determined by landholders (who have participated in Workshops 1 & 2) and will be focused on the assistance required to implement property fire management plans and how to undertake a safe prescribed burn. Many topics will be open for discussion on the day including ecological burning guidelines, burn site preparation, fire behaviour and weather, personal and property protection, fuel loads and other locally relevant topics. There will also be an optional day for landholders to attend a planned prescribed burn.

Workshop 3 will be trialled with three landholder groups in NSW and following these pilots, will be delivered to all other interested landholder groups who have completed Workshops 1 & 2. The Hotspots Fire Project team will be contacting individual landholder groups during 2009 to provide further information and dates for workshops.

If you have any enquiries regarding Workshop 3, please contact Lana Andrews at lane.andrews@rfs.nsw.gov.au If you have any enquiries regarding your fire management plan or other fire related enquiries, please contact your local RFS district office or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

New Hotspots central team members:

- Lana Andrews - Hotspots Project Officer with the NSW Rural Fire Service
- Waminda Parker - Hotspots Strategist
- Sally Hunt - Hotspots Project Coordinator
- Kate McShea - Hotspots Project Officer



Waminda at the November 07 Showcase event, Manly NSW.



Sally Hunt, project Coordinator. Photo K McShea



Kate Nicolson (NCC Bushfire Program Coordinator) & Kate McShea at Bushfire workshop May 2008, Braidwood, NSW. Photo D. White



Lana Andrews NSW Rural Fire Service. Photo W Andrews.

Hotspots Advisory Committee Members:

- Cate Faehrmann & Rob Pallin, Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC)
- Andrew Boleyn, Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC)
- Simon Heemstra & Lana Andrews, NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- Dr Penny Watson & Corinne Orscheg, University of Wollongong (UoW)
- Brian Tomalin, NSW Farmers Association (NSWFA)
- John Klem, Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
- Cuong Tran, SEQLD Fire & Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC)
- Councillors Allan Smith & Ray Donald, Local Government & Sires Association (LGSA)
- Steve Bishop, Forest NSW (FNSW)

Thank you!

Hotspots Project Partners:



Contacting Hotspots

The Hotspots Fire Project is funded by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust. For further information contact the Project Coordinator on (02) 9279 2466, email hotspots@nccnsw.org.au or visit www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au



This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust