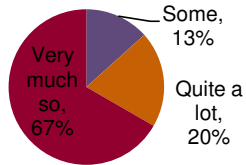


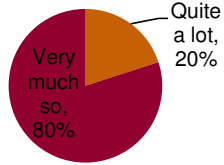
Objectives for the Bucketty workshop series

- Discuss strategies to manage fire to reduce risk whilst improving biodiversity and cultural values
- Introduce landholders to fire management planning for their own property
- Address the fear of fire and potential barriers for landholders to conduct planned burns
- Address any confusion regarding procedures and regulations for planned burns

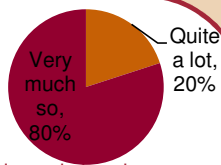
Workshop Evaluation Results



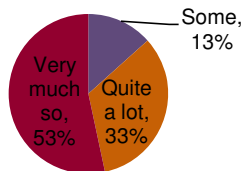
Did this workshop improve your understanding of fire management, and how to manage fire on your property?



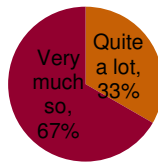
Has this workshop increased your understanding about fire behaviour in the landscape?



Did this workshop improve your understanding of how to plan for and conduct a safe burn?



Did this workshop give you a better understanding of how to plan for fire in different vegetation types on your property?



Did this workshop inform you about who is involved with fire management around your area, and what they do?

80 percent of landholders plan to use fire for biodiversity after attending Hotspots

Workshop achievements

Within two months of the Hotspots program being held at Bucketty, the local fire district received 3 applications for hazard reduction burns for biodiversity from workshop participants. The local residents have banded together to prepare for fire as a community.

Residents of Bucketty have made steps toward planning for bush fire coordination at a very local level. One resident of one of Bucketty's private roads who attended the Hotspots workshops has completed a bush fire survival plan, a property management plan and has taken steps to prepare his property for bushfire. This person, feeling that a group effort would be more effective, has since organised a meeting between his neighbours and the local brigade with the goal to raise awareness and cooperation across bordering properties, and encourage other people to prepare their own bush fire survival plan.

Under the guidance of the nine project partners in the Advisory Committee, Hotspots is delivered through the coordinated efforts of the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.



BUCKETTY WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT*

Workshop 1 (16/06/2012) and Workshop 2 (30/06/2012)



"Before Hotspots, people were environmentally aware, but they were on separate paths. Now they are united, and understand that fire can help"
- Jerry Retford, Bucketty Brigade Captain

Bucketty is nestled in the hinterland of the Central Coast in the Sydney Basin. It spans the headwaters of Wollombi Brook, a major tributary of the Hunter River, the Wyong River flowing east to the Central Coast and the Deep Creek and Mangrove Creek catchments that flow south into the Hawkesbury River. The region is characterised by the prominent sandstone plateau of Yengo and Wollemi National Park. It is recognised as having high biogeographic and scientific significance, with large expanses of native vegetation, numerous rare and threatened species and high biodiversity.

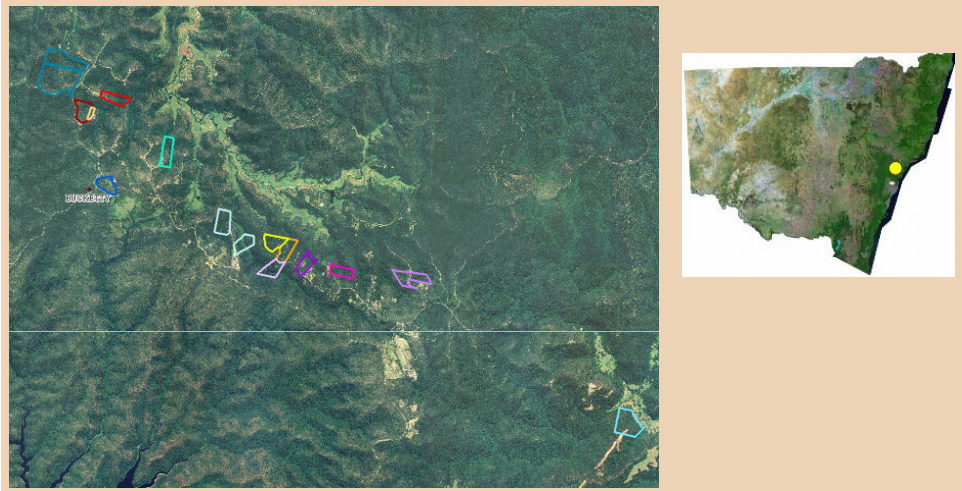
Bucketty provides an important corridor linking the eastern seaboard through to the western slopes, via the Great Dividing Range and Wollemi National Park. A mix of vegetation types occur in the Bucketty area. Infertile upper slopes and ridges are occupied by Dry Sclerophyll Forests and Heathlands, whilst more sheltered and fertile sites are occupied by Wet Sclerophyll Forests and Rainforests in the deep gully pockets. Bucketty is at the boundary of two Aboriginal Nations, Darkinjung and Wonnarua, and many parts of the adjoining Yengo National Park are of immense cultural significance.

This Hotspots workshop series attracted a mix of participants with 22 residents of Bucketty attending, covering an area of 275 hectares (including 261 hectares of native vegetation) over the 18 properties. As a group, this community collectively explored ways in which they could undertake management actions to reduce fire risk whilst also maintaining the biodiversity values of the Bucketty landscape.

* This project was funded by the NSW Rural Fire Service through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program

Fire Management for the Bucketty Area

Content developed June 2012



This fire management landscape overview has been compiled by the Hotspots Fire Project. It serves merely as an aid to planning. The information contained herein reflects our understanding at the time of planning. We are learning more about fire and the environment every day and anticipate that some recommendations may change as new information comes to hand. Thus whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information presented herein is as accurate and well-informed as possible, those involved in compiling this plan take no responsibility for any outcomes, actions or losses resulting either directly or indirectly from the interpretation, misinterpretation or implementation. This plan is intended to be used in conjunction with the help of experts and good neighbour relations. For further information on the Hotspots Fire Project:

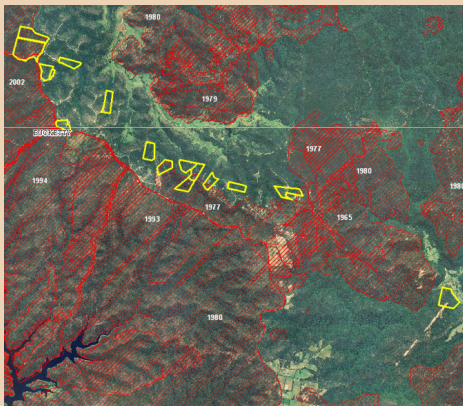


Email hotspots@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Or visit www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au

This map has been created by NSW RFS in June 2012

FIRE HISTORY



IDENTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS*

This workshop series worked with 18 properties for Bucketty covering an area of 275 hectares (which includes 261 hectares of native vegetation)

Actions identified in the workshop series include:

- Co-operate with neighbours
- Make a plan with others to action during wildfire events
- Apply for hazard reduction certificate
- Maintain Asset Protection Zone through mechanical methods
- Apply low intensity burn in land management zone

* **Please note:** This is a listing of the types of follow up actions that participating landholders have identified as part of their individual fire management plans.

LOCAL & WORKSHOP SERIES CONTACTS

NSW Rural Fire Service: Glenn Byrnes 4980 7300

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National Parks & Wildlife Services: Jeff Betteridge 4320 4255

Hotspots Ecologist: Mark Graham mgraham@ncnsw.org.au

THE LANDSCAPE

- * Bucketty spans the headwaters of the Hunter and Hawkesbury Rivers
- * A major corridor between coastal habitats and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- * Within both Darkinjung and Wonnarua Nations
- * Infertile soils derived from Triassic sandstones and shale
- * Grazing, lifestyle, conservation and rural residential land uses

THE VEGETATION & STATE WIDE FIRE INTERVAL GUIDELINE

Vegetation Formation	Vegetation Class	Ecosystem types (Species dominance)	Min State Wide Fire Interval Guideline	Max State Wide Fire Interval Guideline	Comments
Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate	<i>Acmena smithii</i> (lilly pilly), <i>Doryphora sassafras</i> (sassafras)	n/a	n/a	No Fire
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (shrubby subformation)	North Coast	<i>E. saligna</i> Sydney Blue Gum	25yrs	60yrs	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (shrubby subformation)	Sydney Coastal	<i>Angophora costata</i> (Sydney red gum), <i>Corymbia gummifera</i> (red bloodwood), <i>E. haemastoma</i> (scribbly gum), <i>C. eximia</i> (yellow bloodwood) <i>E. capitellata</i> (brown stringybark)	7yrs	30yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 25yrs may be desirable
Freshwater Wetlands	*Coastal Freshwater Lagoons	<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i> (river buttercup), <i>Triglochin procerum</i> (water ribbons), <i>Eleocharis</i> spp. (spike rushes)	n/a	n/a	No Fire
Heathland	Sydney Coastal	<i>Banksia ericifolia</i> (heath banksia)	7yrs	30yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 20 years may be desirable

THREATENED SPECIES

STATUS	FIRE ECOLOGY (management requirements)*
Broad-headed Snake <i>Hoplocephalus bungaroides</i> (Endangered), Pale-headed Snake <i>H. bitorquatus</i> , Stephens Banded Snake <i>H. stephensii</i> (Vulnerable)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
Giant Burrowing Frog <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i> (Vulnerable)	No fire
Green-thighed Frog <i>Litoria brevipalmata</i> (Vulnerable)	No burning of moist grassy habitats in Spring and Summer
Stuttering Frog <i>Mixophyes balbus</i> (Endangered)	No burning within 100 metres of streams
Red Crowned Toadlet <i>Pseudophryne australis</i> (Vulnerable)	No burning adjacent to streams, and no burning in and around ephemeral drainage lines at the headwaters of creeks
Glossy Black Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> (Vulnerable)	No burning of <i>Allocasuarina</i> thickets. Reduce the impact of burning to retain understorey species, in particular to permit the regeneration of she-oaks. Protect existing and future hollow-bearing trees for nest sites.
Barking Owl <i>Ninox connivens</i> , Powerful Owl <i>Ninox strenua</i> , Masked Owl <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> , Sooty Owl <i>T. tyto tenebricosa</i> (Vulnerable)	No burning around known nesting sites at any time. Apply low intensity, mosaic pattern fuel reduction regimes. Retain large areas of native vegetation, especially those containing hollow-bearing trees that are used as nest sites.
Eastern Pygmy Possum <i>Certcartetus nanus</i> (Vulnerable)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> (Endangered)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
Yellow Bellied Glider <i>Petaurus australis</i> , Squirrel Glider <i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> (Vulnerable)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal. Retain den trees and recruitment trees (future hollow-bearing trees), retain food sources, particularly sap-feeding trees and nectar producing species, retain and protect areas of habitat and maintain connectivity between habitat patches.
Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Vulnerable)	Apply low intensity, mosaic pattern fuel reduction burns in or adjacent to Koala habitat. Retain suitable habitat, especially areas dominated by preferred feed-tree species. Avoid crown fires.
Grey-headed Flying-fox <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> (Vulnerable)	Avoid known roost sites.
Large-eared Pied Bat <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> (Vulnerable)	No burning around known roost sites. No slashing, trittering or tree removal around known roosting sites.
Eastern Pipistrelle <i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i> (Vulnerable)	Protect hollows. No removal of trees.
Golden-tipped Bat <i>Kerivoula papuensis</i> (Vulnerable)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal. Protect rainforest from fire.

* **Please note:** Fire management recommendations are based on the assumption that the species are being managed in an intact or near intact landscape. Variation in management requirements will be necessary when dealing with disturbed landscapes. It is important to follow up on local knowledge in support of better management decisions. Black text is derived from RFS Codes of Practice. *Blue text is derived from expert input.