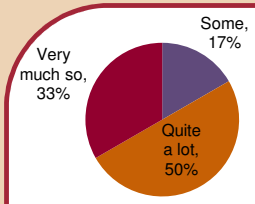
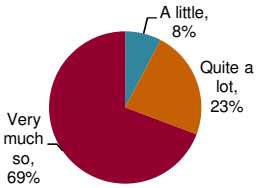
Objectives for the Corindi workshop series

- 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

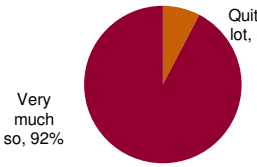
Workshop Evaluation Results



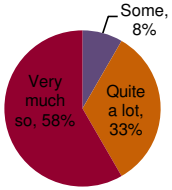
Did this workshop improve your understanding of fire management, and how to manage fire on your property?



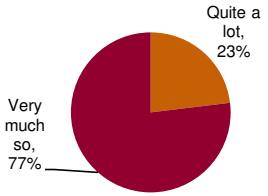
Has this workshop increased your understanding about fire behaviour in the landscape?



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?

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

Workshop achievements

•The Corindi Hotspots workshops had a diverse range of landholder participants attending. They arrived at a collective agreement on the need for actively managing fire to reduce risk and maintain biodiversity.

•The Corindi Hotspots workshops created an opportunity to plan for and implement hazard reduction burns and other activities to reduce risk across the 22 properties. This meant that when a large wildfire happened in Spring 2012, these properties were well protected, no property damage occurred and no lives were placed at risk.

•Participants at the Corindi Hotspots workshops gained familiarity with fire and developed an understanding that fire was an important process for maintaining environmental health across the Corindi Valley. Various long un-burnt areas have now had fire re-instated and this has lead to improved ecosystem health.

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.

HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

2011 Australian Safer Communities Awards NATIONAL WINNER

CORINDI CATCHMENT WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT*

Workshop 1 (29 October 2011), Workshop 2 (4 February 2012)

The Corindi community bands together to collectively protect their economic interests whilst retaining important natural values

"The knowledge that we are not alone in our efforts to protect the environment"

- response of a Corindi Hotspots participant when asked what the main benefit of the program was

The Corindi Valley lies at the southern end of the Clarence-Moreton Basin. It is within the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people, who have a long and strong connection to their nation, which stretches from Nambucca Heads to the Clarence River.

The area supports important biodiversity values including a variety of vegetation types and has been identified as a Eucalypt hotspot due to its high diversity. Heathland and Forested Wetlands can be found along the coastal sandy soils, with taller Forested Wetlands occurring along the alluvial floodplains westwards. Further west the vegetation changes to Wet and Dry Sclerophyll Forests with the Wet Sclerophyll Forests occupying the wetter and more fertile sites, and Dry Sclerophyll Forests occurring on the relatively infertile and drier ridgeline sites. Rainforests on the more fertile soils are scattered throughout.

Within the valley there is a mix of land uses ranging from grazing, horticulture (blueberries), and forestry practices through to lifestyle farm land holdings.

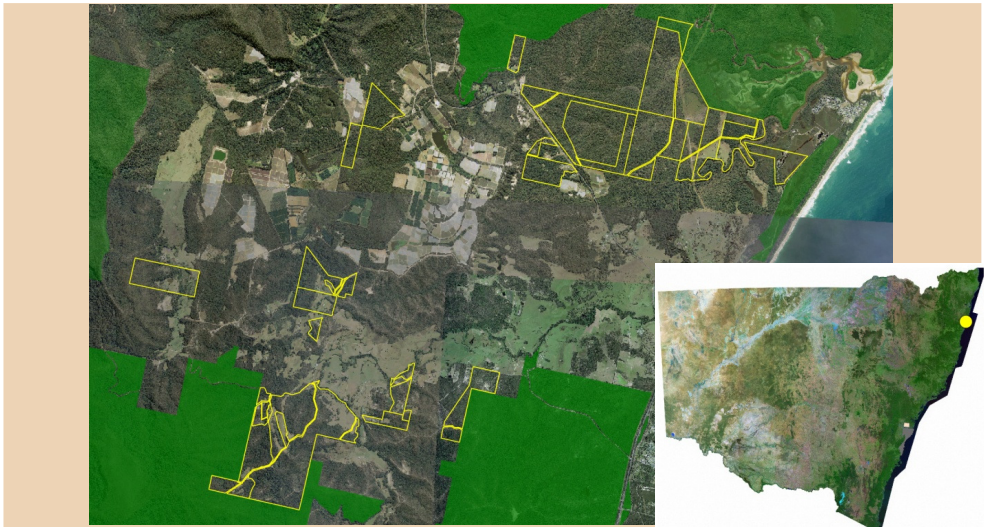
For the purposes of this workshop series, 22 properties (covering 1,677 hectares) were keen to explore ways in which they could collectively protect their economic interests whilst retaining their important values of the natural environment.

* This project was funded by the NSW Rural Fire Service

HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

Fire Management for the Corindi Valley

Content developed October 2011



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 February 2013

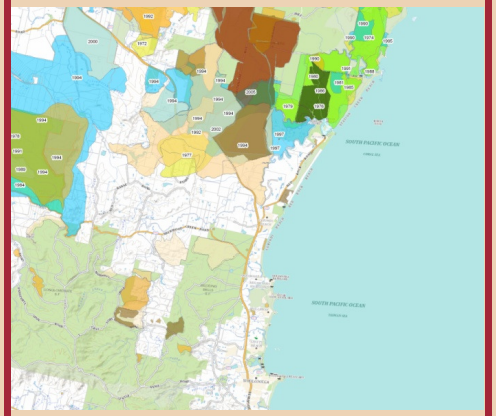
THE LANDSCAPE

The Corindi Valley lies at the southern end of the Clarence-Moreton Basin. It is within the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people, whose nation stretches from Nambucca Heads to the Clarence River. Most of the area is vegetated and it supports one of the highest levels of biodiversity in NSW including a diversity of Eucalypts rivalling the highest known in the world. It holds a mix of forests types including Heathland, Forested Wetlands Wet and Dry Sclerophyll Forests with the Wet Sclerophyll Forests and patches of Rainforests scattered throughout. Dominant land uses in the Corindi Valley are primary industries including grazing, horticulture (blueberries), forestry and lifestyle farms.

THE VEGETATION & STATE WIDE FIRE INTERVAL GUIDELINE

Vegetation Formation	Vegetation Class	Ecosystem types (Species dominance)	Min Interval	Max Interval	Comments
Rainforest	Subtropical	*Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra flame tree), *Ficus macrophylla* subsp. *macrophylla* (Moreton Bay)	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate	*Acmena smithii* (lilly pilly), *Doryphora sassafras* (sassafras)	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Rainforest	Dry	*Backhousia myrtifolia* (grey myrtle)	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (shrubby subformation)	North Coast	*E. grandis* (flooded gum), *Lophostemon confertus* (brush box), *Syncarpia glomulifera* (turpentine)	25yrs	60yrs	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (grassy subformation)	Northern Hinterland	*E. microcorys* (tallowwood), *Corymbia intermedia* (pink bloodwood), *Angophora subvelutina* (broad-leaved apple),	10yrs	50yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 15yrs may be desirable.
Grassy Woodlands	Coastal Valley	*Angophora floribunda* (rough-barked apple), *E. tereticornis* (forest red gum)	5yrs	40yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 25yrs may be desirable
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (shrubby subformation)	North Coast	*E. pilularis* (blackbutt), *E. signata* (scribbly gum)	7yrs	30yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 25yrs may be desirable
Dry Sclerophyll Forest (shrub/grass subformation)	Clarence	*E. carnea* (thick-leaved mahogany), *Corymbia variegata* (spotted gum)	5yrs	50yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 25yrs may be desirable
Heathland	Wallum Sand Heath	*Banksia aemula* (wallum banksia), *Leptospermum trinervium* (flaky-barked teatree)	7yrs	30yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 20yrs may be desirable
Freshwater Wetlands	Coastal Heath Swamps	*Banksia ericifolia* (heath banksia), *Callistemon citrinus* (crimson bottlebrush), *Melaleuca squarrosa* (scented paperbark)	7yrs	35yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 30yrs may be desirable
Freshwater Wetlands	Coastal Freshwater Lagoons	*Ranunculus inundatus* (river buttercup), *Triglochin procera* (water ribbons), *Vallisneria gigantea* (ribbonweed)	7yrs	35yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 30yrs may be desirable
Forested Wetlands	Coastal Swamp Forest	*Callistemon salignus* (sweet willow bottlebrush), *Eucalyptus robusta* (swamp mahogany), *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Paperbark)	7yrs	35yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 20yrs may be desirable
Forested Wetlands	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands	*Angophora floribunda* (rough-barked apple), *Casuarina glauca* (swamp oak), *Lophostemon suaveolens* (swamp mahogany)	7yrs	35yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 20yrs may be desirable

FIRE HISTORY



IDENTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS*

This workshop series worked with 22 properties for the Corindi Valley covering an area of 1677 hectares (which includes 1437 hectares of native vegetation)

Actions identified in the workshop series include:

*** Hazard reduction works:**
- Apply fire management at a landscape scale
- Identifying priority areas for hazard reduction taking into consideration bush fire risk, land use and biodiversity
- Maintain Asset Protection Zones around assets
- Exclude fire from rainforests and other fire sensitive communities

*** Protect community values:**
- Maintain a diversity of land uses - engage in sustainable fire management practices
- Recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Management of riparian areas for biodiversity – rehabilitate and maintain biodiversity along streams, creeks and rivers
- Minimise soil erosion and protect water quality – retain ground cover, rehabilitate and fence off stock from streams, creeks , rivers

* **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.

THREATENED SPECIES

STATUS	FIRE ECOLOGY (management requirements)
Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus (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.
Yellow Bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis (Vulnerable)*	Retain den trees and recruitment trees (future hollow-bearing trees), retain food sources, particularly sap-feeding trees, retain and protect areas of habitat and maintain connectivity between habitat patches.
Little Bent Wing Bat (*Miniopterus australis (Vulnerable)*	No fire around known roost sites. Exclude fire from 100m of maternity cave, winter roost or other significant roost entrances and ensure smoke / flames do not enter. Retain stands of native vegetation within 10km of roost.
Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae* (Endangered Population under TSC Act)	Inappropriate fire regimes, including burning of suitable habitat at too-frequent intervals. Avoid burning during breeding season usually late Autumn to Winter.
Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua) (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.
Rose Crowned Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus regina) (Vulnerable)*	Protect remnant rainforest patches during burning activities and protect known food trees.
Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus)* (Vulnerable)	No fire. Threatened by frequent and widespread fire. Important to achieve a mosaic pattern retaining patches of long-unburnt heath where possible. Minimum fire interval approximately seven years.
Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami) (Vulnerable)*	No burning of allocasuarina thickets. Reduce the impact of burning to retain diverse understorey species, to permit the regeneration of she-oaks. Protect existing and future hollow-bearing trees for nest sites.
Square Tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura (Vulnerable)*	Protect known habitat from fires of a frequency greater than that recommended for the retention of biodiversity. Retain and protect nesting and foraging habitat, particularly along watercourses.
Stephens' Banded Snake (*Hoplocephalus stephensii) (Vulnerable)*	Manage fire to protect and retain old and dead trees and maintain understorey vegetation.
Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus) (Endangered)*	No burning within 100 metres of streams. Manage burning off so that streamside habitats do not suffer loss of moisture or leaf-litter, maintain vegetation and deep leaf-litter around streams.
Sandstone Rough-barked Apple (*Angophora robur) (Vulnerable)*	No fire more than once every 7 years. Manage fire to promote regeneration (too-frequent fires may suppress successful regeneration).

* ***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.*

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