

Hotspots aims to...

- ensure on-ground fire management is informed by best available fire ecology research and operational knowledge;
- improve landholders and land managers understanding and knowledge of practical and sustainable fire management actions across landscapes;
- ensure sustainable fire management is recognised in and is part of relevant policies and programs (including Regional, State and National); and
- work effectively with project partners to deliver an integrated program.

The Hotspots team works with a diverse range of people interested in fire – from landholders and rangers, to fire fighters, ecologists, government agencies, Aboriginal Land Councils and others. Hotspots translates science into practical management initiatives as well as encouraging collaboration within communities, between agencies and across tenures.

The Hotspots team engages with communities to specifically tailor the program to their needs. The Program is then delivered over several training days where landholders actively participate in fire management planning and implementation.



“Watching the crew in action and the fire’s behaviour was a real benefit to me. It increased my confidence in implementing a safe planned burn”

(Hotspots Participant)

“Hotspots is a good tool to empower landholders to do the planning for themselves”

(Hotspots Participant)

“Landholders can build on their knowledge about burning, fire regimes, weather and the environment, which they can put to use in the future”

(Agency Participant)

“Participation with the local community is the best part – it reinforces the purpose and the formula for what we are doing in Hotspots”

(Agency Participant)

How to find out more

The Hotspots team is keen to hear from landholders and land managers who are interested in fire management. If you would like to register your interest or require more information please visit www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au or contact the Hotspots Program on 02 8741 5555 (NSW Rural Fire Service) email hotspots@rfs.nsw.gov.au or 02 9516 0359 (Nature Conservation Council of NSW), email hotspotsfireproject@nccnsw.org.au

Hotspots would like to thank the following project partners for their support:



Office of Environment & Heritage



Local Land Services



HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

Fire Management Training for Healthy Communities & Landscapes

www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au





HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

Hotspots is an award winning program which provides landholders and land managers with the skills and knowledge to actively participate in fire management for the protection of life and property while at the same time ensuring healthy productive landscapes in which biodiversity is protected and maintained.

Based on best available science and operational knowledge, Hotspots understands that well-informed and well-prepared communities complement the roles of land managers and fire agencies. A shared approach to fire management is critical to any form of planning – managing for the protection of life and property and the environment.

“I think Hotspots is probably one of the most interesting programs of its kind, because I can't think of a better way to inform people about this critical issue of understanding fire and understanding the needs of our native plant and animals with regard to fire.”

Professor Ross Bradstock,
Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires



The Hotspots Training Program

Understanding Fire (fire ecology & risk management)

Landholders gain a better understanding of fire ecology and risk management through spending time in the field with ecologists, local fire authorities, land managers and Natural Resource Management staff. Landholders are given the opportunity to build relationships and networks with their neighbours and agencies and to understand issues relating to risk planning, legislation, fire history, the protection of threatened species, vegetation types and animals and their response to fire and different fire regimes.

Developing a Fire Management Plan (a landholder plan)

Landholders develop their own fire management plans in cooperation with their neighbours (both public and private landholdings) and begin to build a better understanding of the role of fire in their local area. The end result is a map-based 12 month fire management action plan.

The Demonstration Burn (participate in a planned burn)

Landholders participate in a field day focused on how to implement actions from their fire management plans. Aspects of planning and implementing a burn in a safe environment are covered. This day brings together all the knowledge and planning from earlier parts of the program. The field day provides a hands-on experience in preparing a burn site, estimating fuel loads, considering weather

factors, reviewing fire behaviour and undertaking a risk assessment. Landholders then observe a demonstration burn conducted by the NSW Rural Fire Service and other agencies.

Our proven model of consultation, science and training has resulted in on-ground actions for biodiversity, community preparedness and improving hazard reduction.

Examples of post Hotspots actions from landholders include:

- joint burns between public and private neighbours
- undertaking NSW FireWise training (for property protection)
- joining and supporting the local fire brigade
- ecological surveys for threatened species to improve property based fire management planning
- monitoring of demonstration burns for ecological outcomes.

