

press clip



Coastal Rag
Saturday 10/05/2014

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Addressing the burning issue

In an exciting new initiative being undertaken jointly by the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management (BMRG), Condamine Alliance, Fitzroy Basin Association, South West NRM and Reef Catchments, the BMRG are implementing a project to meet fire management objectives under the Caring for our Country - Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) program.

The project builds on a previous initiative that was undertaken in the Northern section of Brigalow Belt and aims to achieve:

- Conservation of threatened species and ecosystems
- Overall reduction of wildfire risk to these species and ecosystems
- Production of a regional fire guideline
- Continued planning, prioritisation and field assessment.

Project Manager, Rod Buchanan, is currently focused on developing the regional fire guideline which will consider appropriate fire management regimes across 20 regional landscapes.

Once finalised, the guideline will provide a simple, but balanced prescription for burning for wildfire risk reduction that will be delivered by key project partner Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and used by Fire Wardens and Rural Fire Brigades.

How will it work?

The guideline divides the landscape into land/fire management units and then defines a simple prescription which aims to balance risk, productivity and biodiversity.

It will also provide an overarching framework that can be refined for high risk/ high

value areas and aims to get everyone to agree when and how to burn.

This is the first major step in reducing wildfire risk.

"The fire service is proud to be involved in the development of a new dashboard guide to fire management. This guide will enhance the impact of 'Operation Cool Burn' and contribute to the effectiveness of the local fire management group and regional fire management practices," QFES North Coast Region Manager, Peter Hollier said.

"The guide will be a useful tool for Fire Wardens and Rural Fire Brigades when undertaking hazard reduction burns and mitigation planning prior to bushfire season each year," he said.

"This is an exciting project for both the regional group and our partners. We hope the guideline will help build regional capacity in delivering landscape appropriate fire management and provide a foundation for extension activities including funding submissions when we approach landholders in the future," said Penny Hall, Chief Executive Officer, BMRG.

The project team plans to form a Fire Management Working Group to ensure that both science and practice are taken into consideration in the formation of the guideline document.

For more information about the project, please contact Rod Buchanan, Senior Biodiversity Officer on (07) 4181 2999 or 0488 063 790 or email: rod.buchanan@bmrq.org.au



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