



Bushfire Research Forum to be held in October

A two-day forum detailing the latest bushfire research will soon be held in Perth. The **Western Australian Bushfire Research Forum 2011**—to be held at **The University of Western Australia (UWA)** on **12–13 October 2011**—will showcase local contemporary science that supports bushfire management in WA. It will be co-hosted by DEC, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and UWA.

DEC Principal Fire Projects Officer Rick Sneeuwjagt said the forum will feature 24 researchers and leading experts who will deliver their latest findings and management implications in a range of disciplines, including fire behaviour, fire ecology, environmental and social sciences.

“The forum will provide a valuable opportunity for people responsible for and interested in the planning and implementation of bushfire management, protection and conservation programs to

share and expand the base of knowledge needed to approach the future in the face of changing climates and increasing community risks and expectations,” he said.

The fire ecology research studies included in the first day of the forum will cover all parts of the state, including the Kimberley, the deserts of the Pilbara and Goldfields, the Kwongan coastal heaths, the forests of the south-west and the woodland reserves of the Wheatbelt. The second day will focus on fire behaviour studies and the contribution of prescribed fire in controlling major bushfires.

Lead speakers will include:

Dr Jeremy Russell-Smith, Fire Management Consultant, Charles Darwin University; and Bushfires NT

Landscape-scale fire research in northern Australia: leading to customary fire management to transform the social and biodiversity landscape.

Dr Neil Burrows, Senior Principal Research Scientist, WA Conservation Science Centre DEC
Preliminary findings on the ecological impacts of applying a fine-grain fire mosaics regime in southern forest ecosystems near Walpole. Fire regimes in the arid zone of WA.

Prof Doug Bird and Dr Rebecca Bird, Anthropology Department, Stanford University
Martu People fire regimes and foraging strategies in Australia’s Western Desert.

Phil Cheney, Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO (retired), Canberra
The 2005 Perth Hills bushfire: a case study on the effectiveness of fuel reduction burns in containing major forest fires.

Dr Lachlan McCaw, Principal Research Scientist, Science Division, DEC, Manjimup
Studies of behaviour and impacts of major WA and Victorian bushfires in relation to prescribed burns.

Prof Neal Enright, School of Environmental Science, Murdoch University
Fire frequency in Northern Sandplain Kwongan.

Prof George Milne, School of Computing Science and Software Engineering, The University of Western Australia

Development and application of the UWA bushfire simulator.

Dr Sarah Legge, National Conservation and Science Officer, Australia Wildlife Conservancy
Development and use of biodiversity indicators for evaluating fire management in the Kimberley.

Chief Scientist of WA Professor Lyn Beazley will also be addressing the forum on Thursday 13 October. For more details about the forum or to access the registration form visit www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/full/6562/1916/. Registration fees apply.

