

JOINT AFAC AND BUSHFIRE CRC RESEARCH TRANSFER Progress Report No: 1



Date: 30th July, 2010
Prepared by: Amanda Leck

SUMMARY	
Financials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issues & Risks	<input type="checkbox"/>

What has been delivered since last report:

AFAC are proactively working with the Bushfire CRC in relation to the CRC research extension program. AFAC Group Members attended the Bushfire CRC Research Advisory forum to gain an understanding of the new CRC projects and consider the future implications for agencies. AFAC also took part in a recent meeting of "end users" to gain a shared view of what the new research program will mean for the industry.

As this research program progresses, joint AFAC/Bushfire CRC professional development events will be conducted to engage agencies in the research projects. (see Knowledge Management project update).

Several AFAC Groups are continuing to work with the current research, as outlined below:

Learning and Development

1. Dr Christine Owen conducted a professional development workshop with the AFAC Learning and Development Group (LDG) in March 2010 to discuss the findings of the BCRC research project 'Enhancing Information Flow and IMT effectiveness' and the research implications for IMT training and exercising.
2. Dr N Krusel and Dr C Owen at the meeting briefed the LDG on the higher education initiatives component of the Bushfire CRC research adoption strategy and part of the education and training framework and implications for learning and development. Central to the discussion was exploration of the type of resources required to meet the needs of instructors and learners.
3. Dr N Krusel and Dr S Stack at the September 2009 LDG meeting briefed LDG on the work undertaken by Dr Susan Stack to collate information on all the courses relevant to Bushfire research and education in Australia, listing what topics within them are of relevance, what other topics they are packaged with, where they are being taught, who they are being taught by. This information has been published in a wiki on bushfire education.
4. The Wildfire Technical Reference Group, tasked with reviewing the wildfire stream of units in the fire qualifications, reviewed all of the BCRC Fire Notes to identify whether changes were required to existing new units or whether new competencies were required to meet identified gaps. While further work was required, e.g. fire management planning, a lot of the BCRC material was identified as being particularly relevant when revising and producing new training material.

Workforce Management/Occupational Health and Safety

1. Final research outcomes from the Bushfire CRC program D2.1 on firefighter health and safety are expected in the last quarter of 2010. The Workforce Management Group have reviewed research to date in order to understand the implications for the industry.
2. A reference group of occupational health and safety representatives has been formed to participate in an impact assessment workshop.
3. Dr Brad Aisbett presented a workshop to OHSSG, along with additional agency representatives, to outline the Bushfire CRC extension program research relating to firefighter health. Feedback was provided by the group to establish the products and tools that would be beneficial to accompany the research findings.

Volunteer Management

1. The Volunteer Management Sub-Group have reviewed the research from Bushfire CRC program D3. The group have established a framework for an online product to be developed to house the research and allow knowledge transfer from research to agency, and between agencies.

Rural and Land Management

1. Project Vesta is in the model verification stage with very little data collected to date. Agencies have committed to collect validation data this season 2010/11.
2. Aerial Suppression Decision Tool has been delivered and reviewed.
3. Grassland Curing pilot trials have been completed and feedback has been reviewed.
4. Tree Decline toolbox has been drafted for release.
5. High Fire Forum was held in Albury to bring together users and researchers.

What is being planned for next period:

Learning and Development

1. The ongoing review of the Public Safety units will require further checking to confirm any identified findings from the research can be integrated into the new fire units, e.g. the review of the Community Safety qualifications and the future development of the competencies for fire management planners
2. As the revised and new competencies are completed, work will commence to update the learning resources and this will require an analysis of the research outcomes to confirm what information needs to be included in the resources to ensure that the end users are provided access to the research.
3. Identify lessons that can be learned from the BCRC research (into IMTs, high performing teams and leadership behaviours required for IMT roles) and recent coronial inquests and enquiries to contribute to the development of the AFAC AIMS professional development strategy.

Workforce Management/Occupational Health and Safety

1. The Workforce Management Group will develop a strategy to introduce the research findings into the industry.
2. An impact assessment workshop will be conducted with the reference group upon delivery of final research outcomes.
3. Regular workshops will be held to inform the group as the research progresses.

Volunteer Management

1. AFAC will endeavour to link with AGD on the NEMP funded project to develop an "Emergency Management Volunteer Research and Information Database".

Issues:

Learning and Development

The challenge for the LDG will be gaining a clear and full appreciation of the validated BCRC research in order to ensure information is transferred and adopted.

Workforce Management/Occupational Health and Safety

The area of firefighter fitness is sensitive, both in relation to volunteer fitness assessments and ongoing fitness assessments of paid firefighters. A comprehensive impact assessment will need to occur to fully understand the potential implications.

Volunteer Management

No formal arrangements have been made to link the Bushfire CRC volunteer research with the AGD project to date.

Consultation:

See individual project reports

Financials

Phase	Planned Budget:	Actual To Date:	Estimate At Completion:
1	\$	\$	\$
2	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

Schedule

Phase	Milestones	Status	Base Start	Actual Start	Base Finish	Actual Finish
1	1. See individual Project Reports					

Variations to the project:

See individual Project Reports

Project Management Contact

Project Owner: Naomi Brown
Project Manager: Amanda Leck
Project Team: Naomi Brown,
AFAC Managers,
Noreen Krusel, Research Adoption Manager, Bushfire CRC