



# Integrated assessment of prescribed burning

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The 2009-10 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended that the Victorian State increase prescribed burning. Prescribed burning is likely to have both positive and negative impacts. Objectives for environmental protection and bushfire prevention may be difficult to reconcile and an evaluation of the trade-offs between different objectives is necessary for better informed policy making.

## Aims

- An integrated assessment of prescribed burning strategies.
- Quantify trade-offs between social and environmental outcomes from prescribed burning strategies.
- Identify circumstances where prescribed burning is likely to be a preferred strategy.

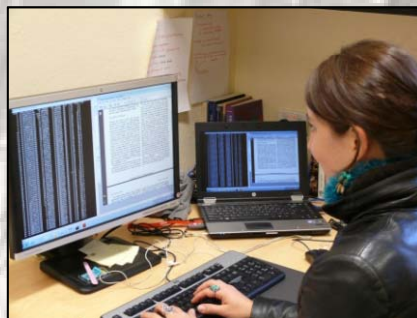
## Challenges

- Prescribed burning is inherently risky and there is uncertainty over the outcomes for the environment, and health and safety risks to the community.
- There is significant uncertainty regarding the impacts and the sustainability of different fire management practices.
- Currently there is no analysis available that integrates research information on fires, ecology, human behaviour, values and economics.

## Methods



*Collate and evaluate existing information*



*Develop a decision model to produce optimal fire management strategies*



*Talk to experts*

## Benefits of the approach

- Using diverse information types in one decision model
- Can identify and deal with knowledge gaps and uncertainty
- Transparency in decisions made
- A strong focus on decision making
- High level of engagement with organisations and experts
- Synthesis of current knowledge in a management context
- Provides an indication of future research priorities