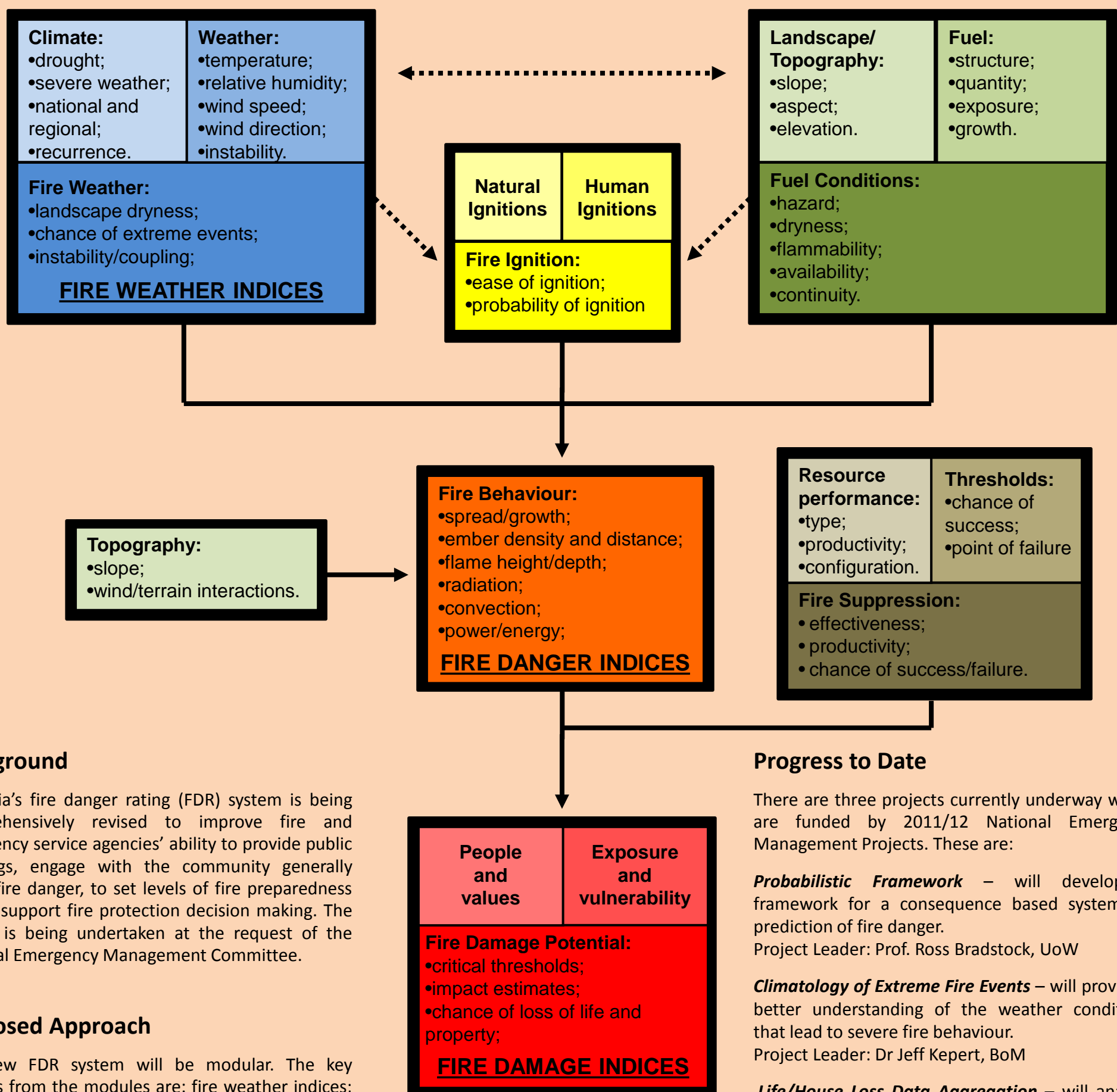


DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM FOR AUSTRALIA

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Background

Australia's fire danger rating (FDR) system is being comprehensively revised to improve fire and emergency service agencies' ability to provide public warnings, engage with the community generally about fire danger, to set levels of fire preparedness and to support fire protection decision making. The review is being undertaken at the request of the National Emergency Management Committee.

Proposed Approach

The new FDR system will be modular. The key outputs from the modules are: fire weather indices; likelihood of fire ignition; fire danger indices and fire damage indices. A modular construction will enable the system to be readily updated as new information becomes available.

Progress to Date

There are three projects currently underway which are funded by 2011/12 National Emergency Management Projects. These are:

Probabilistic Framework – will develop a framework for a consequence based system for prediction of fire danger.
Project Leader: Prof. Ross Bradstock, UoW

Climatology of Extreme Fire Events – will provide a better understanding of the weather conditions that lead to severe fire behaviour.
Project Leader: Dr Jeff Kepert, BoM

Life/House Loss Data Aggregation – will analyse data on bushfire related life loss and the circumstances leading up to them to develop thresholds for chance of loss of life and property.
Project Leader: Mr Justin Leonard, CSIRO