

## Bushfire CRC Research Adoption - Collaboration with Industry

Principles supporting Research Adoption:

- Research will not be taken to industry for adoption without appropriate research governance, that is, approval by the Project Leader, Program Leader and Research Director. The quality assurance of the research program is a key benefit to industry of being partners in the Bushfire CRC. Thus it is generally expected that engagement with the industry at the adoption stage will be around the impact of the research and product development, rather than the validity of the research itself.
- All research will be presented to industry, in other words, no research will be ignored. This principle provides a safety net so that research that is either low profile, less applied or difficult to comprehend or utilise is not overlooked. Thus opportunity is provided to maximise the value of the research.
- The introduction of the research outcomes to industry, through the AFAC groups, will be based on its readiness to be delivered and will be timetabled to progress as rapidly as practicable.. Due regard will be given to the upcoming cessation of the Bushfire CRC and the approaching departure of researchers from July 2009 onward.
- The research adoption process will be case managed and supported by a Research Adoption Officer whose role is to;
  - co-ordinate the contacts and activities of the researcher, an appropriate user champion (preferably based on existing relationships), the AFAC Group Manager and the Communications Manager,
  - ensure production of a Fire Note, inclusion onto the appropriate AFAC meeting agenda; preparation of agenda papers, presentation at the meeting and the facilitation of the Industry Impact Assessment,
  - Collate industry feedback and provide summary reports to inform the product development within the integrated context of the four targeted outcomes;
  - Oversight the product development for that project, following Bushfire CRC consideration and approval, and liaise with the communications manager to arrange for the appropriate 'product launch'.

## The Industry Impact Assessment

*Three stages :*

- *Lead in*
- *Evaluation of impact*
- *Needs assessment*

### *Stage 1 - Lead in*

The research and its potential implications are introduced utilising a Fire Note (supported by and agenda paper and presentation). The Fire Note will be structured in a way to support the agenda paper presented to the group meeting and should include:

- a statement of the problem (contextual statement of the problem area , then explicit statement of the problem)
- presentation of the research
- what has the research told us about the problem
- what are the implications to users of the research (does it validate current practice? Does it challenge current practice? Does it suggest new or better way of doing things? What else might we need to know?

In this way it can guide the subsequent stages of the impact assessment process.

*Stage 2 - Evaluate the Impact*

This stage should provide some analysis of the material presented and lead to the implementation pathway which will in turn inform the tools and approaches (or products) that could be developed.

A series of questions should be considered. This could be done at the discussion at the AFAC group meeting or require a separate workshop. Generally a facilitated discussion based around these questions is anticipated:

What is the research saying about how well we are dealing with the problem?  
 Is what I/we now understand consistent with how we are treating the problem?  
 What are we not doing, and how important is this?  
 Does the research point to how we can tackle the problem?  
 What new questions are now posed? What else do we need to know?



Thus following the discussion, there should be a resolution to take one of these five directions.



**Validation** - What we are doing to address the problem is appropriate → promote the research as 'validating' current practices

**Major impact** - → we resolve to take action to adopt this research & will therefore conduct a detailed needs assessment to inform product development  
 → we resolve to take no action for the following reasons...

**Some impact** – → we resolve to take action to adopt this research & will therefore conduct a detailed needs assessment to inform product development  
 → we resolve to take no action for the following reasons...

**"New Opportunities"** - → we resolve to take action to adopt this research & will therefore conduct a detailed needs assessment to inform product development  
 → we resolve to take no action for the following reasons...

**"Need to know more"** - We need to know more to address the problem → we provide the following advice to inform future research

### Stage 3 – Needs assessment

The needs assessment is the second part of the Industry Impact Assessment, it should be used to inform the tools or products that the assessment group thinks will assist in adopting the research.

The detailed needs assessment could be done at agency level or at national level through another meeting, teleconference or workshop. (For example, the Community Safety Group deemed the implications of the research on the Stay or Go Policy of national significance and they have elected to conduct a national workshop). Regardless of the mechanism, a clear timeframe for the turn around of information is required so there is no undue delay

The following matrix should be used to guide the needs assessment. It should be included in agenda papers. The matrix indicates the tools that might need to be utilised to achieve the desired outcome, or level of change needed to address the anticipated impact. The Bushfire CRC can reasonably be expected to ensure that the first two awareness raising activities (shaded) occur for all bushfire CRC research, whilst many of the more complex and time consuming product development will continue within industry for a period of years. The table below indicates the types of 'products that will enable transfer of the research information to its embedding as knowledge within the sector. It is consistent with AFAC's approach to knowledge creation and management .

Product or activity	Increasing depth of knowledge →			
	Knowledge & awareness	Increased skills & improved practice	Codified or standardised	Embedded
Fire Notes	✓			
AFAC Knowledge Web	✓			
Media, publications, newsletters	✓			
Guidelines	✓	✓		
Seminars and forums *	✓	✓		
Workshops**	✓	✓		
New program	✓	✓	✓	✓
Specialist course***	✓	✓		
Formal Education****		✓		
Policy / Position		✓	✓	✓
Codes / Standards		✓	✓	✓
Regulations / Legislation			✓	✓
Specialised product (eg software)			✓	✓

These definitions have been provided to clarify expectations about their form and what they might achieve. The definitions are aligned to AFAC's Knowledge Management Approach and to the Bushfire CRC Education Framework.

Seminars and forums \* - Seminars and forums typically follow a lecture style and address specific content. A forum might involve more open-ended discussion to explore a particular topic. Both are short in duration (e.g. 2-3 hours, or a half day, depending on the content)

Workshops\*\* - An interactive group meeting (often facilitated by one or more people) aimed at addressing a particular issue (e.g., learning about research outcomes on a particular topic or producing a specific outcome (such as a policy recommendation)). Workshops are typically brief and intensive, for example of a half or full-day duration

Specialist course\*\*\* - Courses designed for a particular audience to advance learning. Courses include instruction, discussion with an expectation of pre-reading and follow-up work on the part of the learner to apply the new learning to the industry context. Courses may or may not be formally accredited (see formal education). Courses are typically 2-4 days in duration, sometimes with follow-up workshops.

Formal Education\*\*\*\* - Formally accredited learning that results in a particular qualification (e.g., Certificate in Vocational education and training) or Degree or Diploma in Tertiary education.

The relevant Research Adoption Officer will collate the information and draw a conclusion about what the impact of the research is expected to be and what the industry and agencies need to address that impact. The data will be reviewed by the Research Adoption Manager who, in conjunction with the research adoption team and Bushfire CRC will propose allocation of resources to support the adoption of the research.