

2 FEBRUARY 2009

Bushfire Research Fund

This summer Australians are again reminded they have one of the most severe fire environments in the world. The bushfires in Gippsland, Victoria, threatened lives, property, stock and vital infrastructure and showed that despite our best efforts, there is still much we need to learn about managing the bushfire threat.

Now, all Australians can directly support a national effort to better understand the role and the impact of fire in our environment.

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre is accepting donations to further its research program – the centre is on the Register of Environmental Organisations with the Australian Government's Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts. Donations to the Bushfire Research Fund are tax deductible.

According to Gary Morgan, Chief Executive Officer of the Bushfire CRC, bushfires are part of the national psyche like flood, cyclones and drought. "At any time of the year some part of the Australian continent is prone to bushfire. The challenge we face today is large – how do we best manage for the bushfire risk? And how do we balance the complex trade-off between environmental, social, cultural and economic values?

Climate change is making the need for high quality scientific research more critical, he said. "We only need to look at the bushfires of recent years to understand the predictions that climate change will increase the frequency, intensity and size of bushfires in the decades ahead."

"Your donation to the Bushfire Research Fund will have an impact. With your support a range of environmental bushfire research projects will be enhanced."

Donations to the Bushfire Research Fund will support Bushfire CRC environmental projects including:

- Biodiversity – the impact of fire
- Fire weather – bushfires affected by temperature, wind, humidity, drought and rain
- Prescribed fire in the landscape – burning to reduce the bushfire hazard
- Fire behaviour – bushfire movement over varied landscapes
- Fire risk in the High Country – alpine vegetation, weather and land management
- Smoke - plumes and hazes from rural and urban fires
- Fire in the tropical savannahs of the Top End
- Die-back of eucalypts in the absence of fire
- Bushfire arson – finding out who, why, when and where
- Homes – protection in bushfire zones

The Bushfire CRC combines the efforts of more than 30 research, fire and land management agencies in Australia and New Zealand in undertaking research on bushfires. In Victoria, its members include the CFA and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.



M E D I A R E L E A S E

It is funded through the Australian Government's CRC program and substantial partner resources for a seven year term from 2003 to address many of the key research issues raised by the major fires of the past decade.

Contact us

For more information on this research and on the Bushfire Research Fund go to
www.bushfirecrc.com

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Media Contact

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