

Abstract Submission and Speaker Profile for Bushfire Conference Program

Title	Dr	First Name	Judy	Family Name	Lambert
Organisation	North Head Sanctuary Foundation				
Qualifications	BPharm, BSc(Hons), PhD, GradDipEnvMgt, GradDipBusiness Admin				
Personal Bio 100 words max	<p>Judy Lambert was the founding president of North Head Sanctuary Foundation and has maintained an active involvement in the Foundation’s community education and research activities. Judy brings to her voluntary work several decades of work as a research scientist, experience in community sector environmental advocacy, time as a Federal ministerial consultant and as a principal in a small consultancy business specialising in multi-stakeholder environment and NRM projects. It was in this latter work that she participated in the development of NCC’s Hotspots program. Judy serves as an NCC representative on local Bushfire Management Committees and on its Bushfire Advisory Committee.</p>				
Title	<p>Fire severity: Does it affect coastal heathland restoration?</p> <p>Lambert, J. Lambert, G & Hammill K</p> <p>In May 2018 a Fire & Rescue NSW managed hazard reduction burn on Sydney Harbour Federation Trust land at North Head Manly, provided an opportunity to assess the impacts of fire intensity on Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS), a Critically Endangered ecological community. This community is unique to the Sydney region, occurring on aeolian sand deposits in coastal areas from North Head to Botany Bay.</p> <p>The burn study was part of an ongoing conservation and restoration management program integrating rabbit exclusion fencing, native mammal introductions and prescribed burning in ESBS at North Head.</p> <p>The study area is managed by the Sydney Harbour Trust, in partnership with North Head Sanctuary Foundation volunteers and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.</p> <p>As part of the overall conservation management program at North Head, thirty-two vegetation quadrats have been established to monitor the effects of management actions across a 4.6 ha study area. The quadrats are stratified across high-diversity and low-diversity (including <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>-dominated) ESBS, in fenced (to exclude rabbits) and unfenced areas. The May 2018 prescribed burn was implemented across this study area and resulted in variable fire intensity, thus providing an opportunity to examine the effects of fire intensity on ESBS regeneration.</p> <p>In this paper we examine and compare floristic data collected in the 32 quadrats: pre-fire in October 2014 and post-fire in October 2019. Previous studies of ESBS regeneration after fire show that the vegetation response is complex and influenced by multiple factors. Field observations during the current study suggest that post-fire rainfall is important in seedling recruitment and early plant growth following fire. The effect of fire intensity is currently being analysed and will also be presented. The results will be used to inform the ongoing management program.</p>				
Presentation Abstract: (maximum 300 words)					
Key Message: One sentence summary	<p>Prescribed burning in Critically Endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub is being used as part of a restoration management program at North Head, with the aim of maintaining species diversity and stimulating dormant seed bank in senescent heathland areas.</p>				