

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Bid to develop bushfire management system

Experts from around Australia and overseas are set to get fired up this week.

The *Bushfires, Biodiversity and Climate Change* workshop will bring together a variety of participants hoping to develop a bushfire management system that will allow Australia to cope with a changing climate that will almost certainly bring more bushfires.

Professor David Bowman, UTAS School of Plant Science fire ecologist, will present at the workshop.

“Climate change is likely to increase fire activity globally and south-eastern Australia is thought to be particularly vulnerable, as the 2009 Victoria bushfire tragically underscored.”

Prof Bowman said this vulnerability raised issues about future management of bushfires, including controlled burning and the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem processes.

“The focus of this workshop is to explore an adaptive management framework to develop ecologically sustainable fire management programs in Australia,” he said.

“A range of researchers and land managers will be brought together to design this framework. Basically land managers are facing up to some very tough choices associated with managing fire, protecting people and property and sustaining biodiversity values.”

The event is funded by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.

Dates: Wednesday 23 May –Thursday 24 May 2012

Venue: Reviewer Room, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Hobart.

Media information: The best time for interviews is during the workshop breaks, morning tea 10.30-11 and lunch 12.30-1.30.

Program attached.

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