South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium

Terms of Reference

Translating science into practise for improved fire management and biodiversity conservation in South East Queensland

Established in 1998, by Griffith University, a number of state agencies and local government authorities, the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC) is a network of land managers and stakeholders devoted to providing a coordinated response and best-practice recommendations for fire management, fire ecology and the conservation of biodiversity in the South East Queensland (SEQ) region through education, community engagement and applied research.

Aims and Function:
The primary aims of the SEQFBC aims are to:

• Engage with, and educate land managers, private landowners and stakeholders in fire management planning for biodiversity, whilst ensuring life and property protection and safety;
• Encourage and participate in applied fire ecology and fire management research for biodiversity conservation;
• Provide a central location for the dissemination of information on fire ecology and fire management for biodiversity; and
• Maintain partnerships and establish new links with relevant programs and activities throughout Australia.

The SEQFBC has a number of key functions, including:

(1) Education, extension and engagement - assisting land management agencies and private landholders with evidence based support and information where fire management issues arise and for the purposes of fire management planning with biodiversity conservation objectives;
(2) Research - applied fire ecology research in the SEQ region to investigate knowledge gaps in biodiversity and fire management; and
(3) Representation and response - provision of a coordinated response to matters of regional, state and national fire management and fire ecology importance (i.e. legislative amendments, government inquires, state planning policy reviews, local government planning and policy issues).

Hosting Arrangements and Supporting Organisations

Following an extensive process to seek a new host for the SEQFBC, a partnership opportunity was identified with SEQ Catchments, the regional nature resource management body for SEQ. This partnership provides excellent opportunities for ongoing engagement with private landholders, public land managers and academic institutions in fire management and fire ecology research.

Phase 4 of the SEQFBC is generously supported by Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Redland, Scenic Rim, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba councils, the National Parks Association of Queensland, Powerlink, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and SEQ Catchments.

In order to maintain independence, and whilst the SEQFBC is appreciative of all offers of financial support for its operation, private donations are not accepted and funds are only sought from government bodies, large public land managers, infrastructure providers and not for profit organisations.

The SEQFBC is proudly supported by: Brisbane City Council; Gold Coast City Council; Ipswich City Council; Lockyer Valley Regional Council; Logan City Council; Moreton Bay Regional Council; National Parks Association of Queensland; Powerlink; Queensland Fire & Rescue Service; Redland City Council; Scenic Rim Regional Council; SEQ Catchments; Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council.
Membership

Membership is open to everyone and provides inclusion on the SEQFBC newsletter and notification email list. As such, members are kept up to date with current information on fire ecology, management, events and literature. Members also receive invitations to SEQFBC hosted events, such as the 6-monthly full Consortium meetings. Please note membership does not allow the use of the SEQFBC logo without the explicit permission of the SEQFBC Coordinator. However, members are free to download all information and documents available on the website and are asked to acknowledge SEQFBC documents as per Australian copyright standards.

Publications

A number of key publications and documents have been produced by the SEQFBC, these documents provide include general information on fire ecology and the response of flora and fauna to fire, more detailed publications on how to develop a fire management plan for an individual property and strategic planning and monitoring documents for land managers. These key documents are:

Fact Sheets:
- Introductory fire ecology fact-sheet (Level 1);
- In-depth booklet on fire ecology (Level 2);
- Fire Management for protected vegetation;
- Living with Fire – native wildlife;
- Bushfire safety for your home.

Strategic and Planning Documents:
- Individual property fire management planning kit;
- Fire monitoring manual;
- Fire management operational manual;
- Strategic fire management manual.

Literature Reviews:
- The role and use of fire for biodiversity conservation in South East Queensland: Fire management guidelines derived from ecological research;
- A review of current knowledge and literature to assist in determining ecologically sustainable fire regimes for the South East Queensland region.

Research Project History

One key focus for the SEQFBC is to participate in research projects that benefit sponsors and members of the SEQFBC. Outlined below are some significant projects undertaken by the SEQFBC.

- Rainforest Recovery Project | Project Managers: SEQ Catchments Pty Ltd;
- SEQ Water – Biodiversity Corridor Strategy | Project Managers: SEQ Water;
- The Australian Wildlife Conservancy | Project Managers: Australian Wildlife Conservancy;
- Fire in the ‘Burbs (Partners: Brisbane City Council) | Project Managers: Brisbane City Council;
- Reassessment of SEQ Bioregion Fire Regime Classification (Partners: Qld Parks & Wildlife Service) | Project Managers: SEQ Fire & Biodiversity Consortium; and
- Potential fuel profiles for eucalypt-dominated woodlands in SEQ | Project Managers: Griffith University

For further information please contact the SEQFBC Coordinator on the above details.