



SEQ Fire & Biodiversity
CONSORTIUM
Celebrating 20 Years

MT COOT-THA BOTANIC GARDENS

20th ANNIVERSARY FIRE FORUM

FIRE, RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIPS

JUNE 11th 2019

www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au



20th Anniversary Fire Forum Report

Highlights, Outcomes & Learnings

June 2019



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Disclaimer: The information in this report has been prepared with due diligence and is based on the best available information at the time. The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of our partner organisations. The images in this report have been gratefully provided by Deborah Metters and Craig Welden.

1. Introduction

On a perfect Brisbane winter day on the 11th June 2019, over 200 people gathered together at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens to celebrate 20 years of the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium). In a time of ever-increasing pressure on resources and people's time, it is a remarkable achievement for the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium to have reached 20 years.

Hosted and coordinated by the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium, the Forum focus was *Fire, Research and Partnerships*, showcasing applied fire ecology and on-ground fire management projects and programs that highlight the value of partnerships and longevity in applied fire ecology and on-ground management. As always, there was a focus on *translating science into practice*, with a session dedicated to local fire research and student projects.

A range of world-class speakers from a variety of stakeholder groups – including Traditional Owners, utility providers, NGOs, emergency services, government agencies, local government and research institutions, presented at the Forum. The program featured 17 presentations, delivered by 30 presenters from 21 different organisations. It was a living example of collaboration, partnerships and applied fire outcomes. The day was carefully planned to provide opportunities to share, engage, learn and network with others in the dynamic field of bushfire knowledge, understanding, planning and practice.

"I learned something new in each of them (the talks); It was great to hear about the evolution over 20 years of SEQFBC"
"Helped challenge my thinking about fire and biodiversity"

(2019 Forum Attendees)

A highlight of the day was the gathering of former and current SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Managers and Coordinators: Dr Penny Watson (currently private contractor), Dr Cuong Tran (currently Ten Rivers), Dr Sam Lloyd (current Manager) and Craig Welden (current Coordinator). Each



shared their experience, recounting significant events and emphasising the importance of partnerships and collaborations in delivering relevant outcomes and ensuring ongoing funding. This retrospective of the Consortium for the past twenty years, was documented and presented as part of the Forum program, to download a copy please visit our website.

(Image: Current Co-ordinator Craig Welden, former Co-ordinator's Dr Penny Watson & Dr Cuong Tran and current Manager Dr Sam Lloyd)

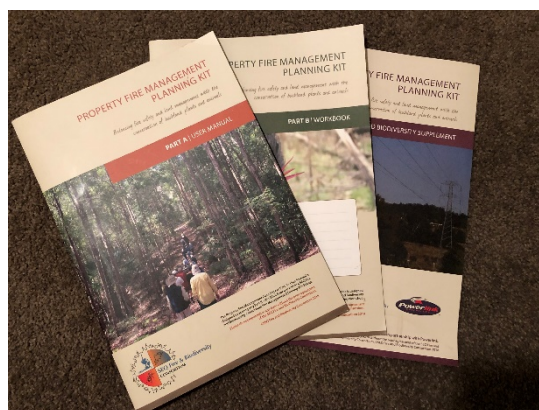
“Long-term partnerships, it was a good demonstration of how a shared knowledge base from working collaboratively on projects is instrumental in adapting to future requirements and keeping up with change “. (2019 Forum Attendee)

2. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium and Partners

Established in 1998, the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium, is a network of land managers and stakeholders committed to improving fire and biodiversity management outcomes, supporting and disseminating fire ecology research, facilitating partnerships between key stakeholders and building the capacity of land managers and private land owners to address issues of fire management and biodiversity in south-east Queensland.

Established with funding from the National Heritage Trust, the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium has had several hosts, starting with Logan City Council (1998 – 2002) and moving to Griffith University with a focus on research in late 2002 and from there to the former Natural Resource Management Regional Body for SEQ, SEQ Catchments in 2009. Following a merger in 2016, between SEQ Catchments and Healthy Waterways (forming Healthy Land and Water) the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium was fortunate to receive continued support.

Currently embedded with Healthy Land and Water, the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium is supported in part by funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program. Current funding provides for a Manager (Dr Samantha Lloyd) three days per week and a Coordinator (Craig Welden) four days per week. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium priorities and deliverables are guided and supported by a Steering Committee and Working Groups (e.g. Engagement and Training), in parallel with Healthy Land and Water and funding driven commitments. Members of the Steering Committee are listed at Appendix 1.



The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium aims to ensure knowledge and momentum is not lost when funding fluctuates and/or staff change – with both former Coordinators, Dr Penny Watson and Dr Cuong Tran still involved and contributing on a regular basis, which is greatly appreciated. The same can be said of many of the people who have, and still do contribute to the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium – via the Steering Committee, working groups, research partnerships or project support – many of these people have done so for a decade or more and their contribution is highly valued.

The past few years have been particularly challenging with substantial changes to funding and

it is a significant win that we have navigated our way through, further galvanising the support of our partners along the way. A final mention needs to go to the tireless efforts of our Steering Committee members, Manager (Dr Samantha Lloyd) and Coordinator (Craig Welden) and the support given to them by Healthy Land and Water.

SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Partners

One of the key strengths of the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium is the number and diversity of partners. Each partner organisation contributes financially and in-kind and these contributions increase significantly the value, networking reach, influence, skill base and knowledge potential of the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium. The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium gratefully acknowledges support from an impressive list of 19 partners, some of whom have been collaborating for 20 years, reflecting an active and dedicated network.

It is illustrative of not only the dedication and expertise of partners, but also the importance of the outcomes to the people and organisations involved and the strength of the relationships supporting those outcomes. These outcomes include manuals, literature reviews (and other resources), workshops, training, research projects, scholarships, project coordination, two national conferences, partner representation, policy and legislative responses and of course, the ever-popular Fire Forums.

The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium would also like to recognise Healthy Land and Water, who have generously hosted the organisation since July 2016.





3. Thank you to Our Sponsors

South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium - 20th Anniversary Fire Forum, would not have been possible without the generous contributions from the following sponsors.

Ecological Society of Australia

The Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) is the peak group of ecologists in Australia with over 1500 members from all states and territories, and a 50-year history supporting ecologists, promoting ecology and ecological research. ESA aims to create a community of knowledge and understanding amongst ecologists and reach out to those working in related fields.



Brisbane City Council

Brisbane City Council is committed to protecting, managing and enhancing Brisbane's biodiversity values. The Brisbane Vision includes the aspiration to maintain a clean and green city that continues to support a high level of biodiversity. Brisbane City Council was a founding member of the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership (now Healthy Land and Water), which works to protect our waterways, river and bay, and the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium, which advocates for best practice fire management. Council's bush risk management planning includes planned burns to maintain healthy fire adapted forests and lessen the impact of wildfires by reducing forest fuel levels.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning

The Centre of Excellence is developing relationships and building networks for increased capability through knowledge management and interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to address the most challenging and significant prescribed burning problems for reducing risk and maintaining ecosystem health.



NRMjobs

NRMjobs is a niche service – communicating and promoting jobs and opportunities in the environment, water and natural resource management and targeted at people who work, study or are seeking work in the environment water and natural resource management field in Australia.



We would like to thank these sponsors for their contribution including supporting presenters and staff to attend, providing banners and setting up stalls to enrich the event.

4. Forum Outcomes and Highlights

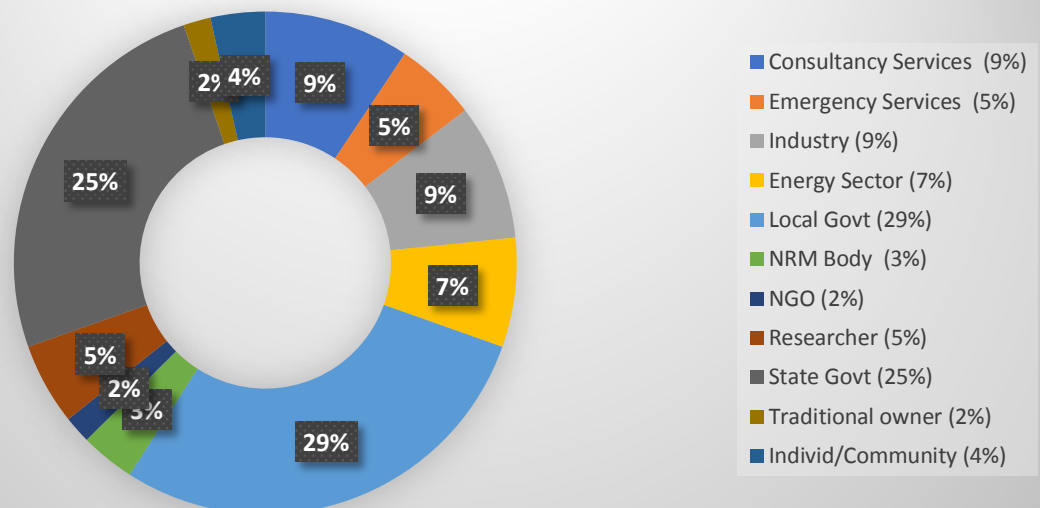
4.1 Attendees

The Forum attracted around 200 people from a diversity of backgrounds, from all over Queensland and interstate. Over 50 % of registered attendees came from Local Government and State Government organisations. There were also representatives from Traditional Owner groups, emergency services, industry (including the energy sector), NGOs, research institutions and consultants (refer to Figure 1).

The affordable registration fee and the single day format was a selling point for the Forum.

" One day allows more staff to attend and hear valuable advice at reduced cost"
(2019 Forum Attendee)

Figure 1. Diversity of Attendees based on Sector or Organisation.



4.2 Welcome and Keynotes

Attendees were officially welcomed by Margie Milgate (Healthy Land and Water, HLW) who reminded us that Traditional Owners have been expertly managing the land with the use of fire for over 50,000 years and linked the value of networks at the forum back to the SEQ Regional Plan.

Opening presenter, Superintendent James Haig (Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, QFES) spoke of the real success of the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium being the partnerships formed with stakeholders and the connection with landholders enabling improved fire management.



(Image: Superintendent James Haig, Emeritus Professor Rob Whelan, HLW Director Margie Milgate & SEQFBC manager Dr Sam Lloyd)

Keynote speakers Elizabeth Ashman (Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Vic) and Professor Alan York (University of Melbourne) illustrated how their nine-year research, planning and policy partnership supported applied fire research that uncovered patterns resulting in pivotal changes in planned burning program for biodiversity.

Keynote speaker, Emeritus Professor Rob Whelan (University of Wollongong) shared the importance and value of long-term research projects and the partnerships and knowledge that underpin them, with success stories including the translocation of the Eastern Bristlebird in NSW leading to the decrease in status under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

4.3 Presentations

Including the Keynotes above and the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium's 20-year Retrospective Presentation, the program featured 17 presentations, delivered by 30 presenters from 21 different organisations.

It is not possible to do justice to all the great presentations, so instead key messages from each presenter have been highlighted below. For more information on the Forum, presenters or to see full presentation abstracts please visit our website (www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au) to download a copy of the program or contact us for more information.

- Steve Martin and Murray Abel (both Powerlink) emphasised the significance of linear infrastructure in the landscape (roads, powerlines etc) that are at risk from fire and the value of the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium to support Powerlink to explore issues relevant to their priorities.
- Superintendent James Haig and Inspector Andrew Sturgess (both QFES) gave a compelling summary of the November/December 2018 Queensland bushfire emergency, the conditions that triggered an emergency alert for Deepwater and how longer fire seasons with more frequent “extreme” days are the new normal.
- Deb Sparkes (Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning) provided an excellent run down of the National Burning Project and the materials and resources available to download or purchase.
- Jacob Martin, Nathan Frazier (both Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, Qld) and Dave Kington (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service - QPWS) shared their inspiring story of cultural fire landscapes in Quandamooka Country on Minjerrabah (North Stradbroke Island) and the sophistication of traditional fire management practices and current efforts to support those practices.
- Kate McShea (NSW Nature Conservation Council), Jennie Cramp (Rural Fire Service, NSW) and Paul Donatiu (HLW) shared how the NSW Hotspots Project, inspired by the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium, has gone on to facilitate and deliver important on-ground outcomes and support services and resources for landholders in regional NSW.



(Image: Kate McShea (NSW Nature Conservation Council), Jennie Cramp (Rural Fire Service, NSW))

- Dr Tom Lewis (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) and Peter Leeson (QPWS) presented the amazing research story of the Australia’s longest running fire experiment, with the longevity providing valuable insight into plant composition and weed prevalence (e.g. lantana density significantly higher in long unburnt sites).
- Dr Paul Williams (Vegetation Management Science) and Chandra Wood (Brisbane City Council) provided another example of the value of long-term research, with a local project (also born out of the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium) that looks at vegetation change in response to fire, the importance of the grass and herb layer and the significance of burn timing and soil moisture in supporting native grasses that in turn are a food source for granivorous birds.

- Associate Professor Pat Moss and Honours student Penny Webster (both University of Queensland) presented their research on historical indigenous fire management on Minjerrabah (North Stradbroke Island) and how a drop in the charcoal layer at the time of colonisation was thought to be associated with fire suppression and the importance of current cultural fire practices in sustaining Jumping Grass Swamp.
- Rod Fensham shared Andy Baker's (Southern Cross University) PhD research, which illustrates the importance of appropriate fire regimes and the risk to native vegetation communities (including dry open forest and wet sclerophyll) from rainforest invasion in the absence of fire, with 90% of dry open forest in the Bryon Shire (NSW) under rainforest invasion.
- Peter McDonald (Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) provided a reminder of the importance of understanding the relationship between fire and the Qld Vegetation Management Act 1999 (VMA), including issues around the width of fire breaks, hazard reduction burning (which is exempt under the VMA) and the need for landholders to recognise the distinction between local laws and the VMA.

"Everyone spoke very well. We all appreciate the effort Sam & Craig put in. Very well organised!"
(2019 Forum Attendee)



(Image: Speakers at the SEQFBC 20th Anniversary Fire Forum)

- Former SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium scholarship recipient, Martyn Elliott (University of the Sunshine Coast) shared his new PhD research project, looking at the cost and effectiveness of prescribed burning as a risk mitigation tool, which he will report more on at future Forums.
- Ariane Allen (Southern Cross University) gave her first Honours presentation on her research focussed on identifying changes in forest structure due to fire exclusion in Bundjalung National Park. Ariane will provide an update at future Forums.

*"I value the opportunity to
hear about the latest science"
(2019 Forum Attendee)*

5. Forum Survey Responses

A brief post conference survey was emailed to registered attendees on the day of the Forum asking 5 short questions (see Figure 2). Of 171 registered attendees, 27.49% (47) provided a response to the survey. Most (41) responded either the day of, or the day after, the Forum.

Figure 2. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Fire Forum 2019, Survey Summary.

Question	Response Summary	No responses/ % total attendees
Q1. Please choose your five favourite talks from 20th Anniversary Fire Science Forum 2019. Provide comment of what made them your favourite presentations.	Refer to Section 5.1 below and Figure 3. for detail	47 27.49%
Q2. How likely is it that you would recommend SEQFBC Fire Science Forums to a colleague?	98% were likely or highly likely to recommend the Forums.	47 27.49%
Q3. What was most valuable about the 20th Anniversary Fire Science Forum 2019 (e.g. networking, topics covered, length of program - i.e one day vs multiple days, diversity of speakers) presentations?	Networking and diversity of talks/themes/speakers were the most highly valued aspects of the Forum. (Section 5.2 & Figure 4.)	46 26.9%
Q4. How would you rate the venue/location ?	Over 75% of respondents rated the venue, good, very good or excellent. (Section 5.3)	46 26.9%
Q5. Was the quality and quantity of the catering adequate?	100% of respondents rated the quality and quantity of catering as adequate or above. (Section 5.3)	47 27.49%

5.1 Forum Content

Attendees were asked to choose their five favourite talks from the Forum 2019 and comment on what made them their favourite presentations.

Figure 3. below summarises the results of the survey with the top five papers highlighted. The top-rated talk was Cultural Fire Landscapes in Quandamooka Country - Darren Burns, Jacob Martin, Nathan Frazier, (Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corp.), Dave Kington (QPWS), Paul Williams (Vegetation Management Science) & Joel Bolzenous (HLW). The Paper was competently delivered by a traditional owner from the area, Jacob Martin, whose passion for his country was obvious. The quote below provides a good summary of why this was the favourite.

*“Cultural fire landscapes in Quandamooka country was my favourite - the personal element of having a Traditional Owner there presenting was fantastic and sadly all too rare in conferences in Australia. I also loved Prof Whelan's comment that it's great to celebrate the consortium's 20 years but Aboriginal Australians have been managing fire in Australia for more than 40,000 years.”
(2019 Forum Attendee)*



(Image: Dave Kingston QPWS and Jacob Martin, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corp)

Figure 3. The Five Top Fire Forum Talks chosen by Survey Respondents

Forum Paper Title and Author <i>Nb. S – Student paper</i>	% of total	No. Resp
Cultural Fire Landscapes in Quandamooka Country - Darren Burns, Jacob Martin, Nathan Frazier, (Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corp.), Dave Kingston (QPWS), Paul Williams (Vegetation Management Science) & Joel Bolzenous (HLW).	82.98	39
The Value of Long-term Monitoring: Vegetation Response to Fire in Brisbane- Paul Williams (Vegetation Management Science, Qld) & Chandra Wood (Brisbane CC, Qld).	63.83	30
Fire Frequency, Vegetation Change & Lantana in Australia's Longest Running Fire Experiment - Dr Tom Lewis (D. Agriculture & Fisheries, Qld) & Peter Leeson (Qld Parks & Wildlife Service).	61.70	29
Biodiversity Management in Fire-prone Ecosystems: Long-term Partnerships are Essential but Challenging - Emeritus Prof. Rob Whelan (Uni of Wollongong NSW).	57.45	27
Indigenous Fire Management: Evidence from South East Queensland and Importance for Future Management - Assoc Prof. Patrick Moss, Penny Webster ^S and Dr Phillip Stewart (University of Queensland)	42.55	20
Rainforest Expansion Reduces Understorey Plant Diversity in Dry Open-forest of South-eastern Australia - Dr Andy Baker (Southern Cross University), Associate Professor Rod Fensham (University of Queensland) and Claudia Catterall (Southern Cross University)	40.43	19
Overview of Queensland Nov-Dec 2018 Bushfire Emergency - Superintendent James Haig, Andrew Sturgess & Francis Hines (Qld Fire & Emergency Services).	29.79	14
Evidence Enabled Decisions: Research and Policy Relationships - Prof. Alan York (Melbourne Uni.) & Elizabeth Ashman (D. Enviro., Land, Water & Planning, Vic).	25.53	12
SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium 20th Anniversary Retrospective: Research, Fire and Partnerships - Dr Penny Watson, Dr Cuong Tran (Ten Rivers, Qld) Dr Samantha Lloyd & Craig Welden (SEQ FBC, Qld)	21.28	10
Supporting Sustainable Fire Management On-ground: The Evolution of the Hotspots Partnership - Kate McShea (Nature Conservation Council of NSW), Jennie Cramp (NSW Rural Fire Service) and Paul Donatui (Healthy Land and Water).	14.89	7
Planned and Unplanned Fire Regimes on Public Land in Southeast Queensland; and the Cost Effectiveness of Prescribed Fire as a Bushfire Risk Mitigation Tool - Martyn Elliott ^S (University of the Sunshine Coast, Qld)	12.77	6
Striking the Balance - Stephen Martin & Murray Abel (Powerlink, Qld).	12.77	6
An Introduction to the Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning - Deborah Sparkes (Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning, Vic)	8.51	4
Changes in Frogs and Ecological Function in Burnt & Unburnt Habitat in Bundjalung NP - Ariane Allen ^S (Southern Cross University/Logan City Council)	8.51	4

*"I really enjoyed the ecology research and the Indigenous people's fire management practices. Additionally, it was really encouraging to have people share all of their information and knowledge."
"The speakers were engaging and maintained my interest." (2019 Forum Attendees)*

Whilst most comments were positive regarding the diversity of speakers and topics, a few respondents were keen to see more of the focus of the Forum on the delivery of information relevant to on ground operations.

"I thought that the event would have benefited from more operationally relevant presentations and the emphasis on partnerships & governance etc could have been reduced" (2019 Forum Attendee)

5.2 Most Valuable Aspects of the Forum

Respondents were asked to comment on what they felt was most valuable about the Forum. A summary of the 46 responses are summarised in Figure 4. below.

Figure 4. Qualities that made the Forum a Valuable Event

Key values/aspects	Responses
Networking	26
Diversity of talks/themes/speakers	15
Topics covered	8
One day Forum (length of program)	4
Quality /reputation of speakers (Alan York and Rob Whelan)	2
Research presenters/local research	2
Practical application of research topics	1

The opportunity to network with people from a broad range of backgrounds and the diversity of talks and speakers were clearly identified as most valuable. This was obvious on the day as post-presentation question time was busy and there was much chatter and swapping of business cards and contact details during break time. Two respondents provided feedback that they were personally more interested in the science and implementation rather than the talks on policy, partnership and collaboration.

"Good diversity of speakers and a good mix of presentations from applied research, partnerships and community engagement perspectives."

"I value the opportunity to hear about the latest science"

"Having such a diverse pool of knowledge in one place."

"Opportunity to network and hear from current and relevant topics."

"Interactions between people in different agencies and researchers."

(2019 Forum Attendees)

5.3 Forum Logistics

Survey Questions 4 and 5 sought feedback regarding the Forum venue and the quality and quantity of the catering. Over 75% of respondents rated the venue, good, very good or excellent and 100% of respondents rated the quality and quantity of catering as adequate or above. There were two comments regarding issues with the venue.

"The noise in the kitchen and those talking at the front door disturbed those listening at the back of the room."

"The location made it a little difficult to see slides with many tall people in front."

(2019 Forum Attendees)

Two comments were made on the time management for the presentations, despite the efforts of a timekeeper on the day. Several respondents had to leave early (at lunch or afternoon tea), as a result they missed some of the presentations. There were suggestions to start the day earlier and finish earlier.

"Really enjoyed the program but thought it was a bit long. I had to leave around 4pm and noticed quite a few others leaving at this time. Felt sorry for the later presenters in having less of an audience."

"It was a shame the research presenters were left last, they were time pressured and many attendees left"

"The range of topics was great, but the forum seemed too short, multiple days or dual programs running on different topics would be good."

"I appreciate it is a fine balancing act with organising the content and timings. perhaps a timekeeper who provided 2 minutes warning might be worth considering."

(2019 Forum Attendees)

There were many glowing comments regarding the caterers, the Country Women's Association (CWA), who provided fresh food and beverages on the day. A few respondents requested clearer information on the labels of the special diet foods.

"CWA ladies did a fabulous job of food." "The melting moments rated very high."

"Great Scones" "CWA rocks." "AAA+ (rating)." "Delicious, lovely home-baked goods. "

"Thank you for meeting vegan dietary requirements"

"I love that the CWA catered. It supports community and they did a great job!"

(2019 Forum Attendees)

5.4 Suggestions for Improvement

Overall, the feedback from the survey and general comments on, and since the Forum, have been very positive, with some constructive suggestions for future forums. The Consortium recognises the weaknesses of this venue and with the growing popularity of the annual forum and are committed to finding a new venue, hopefully with tiered seating, better technology and a separate kitchen area for the caterers.

The scheduling of the program will be reviewed to improve timeliness and flow. There were suggestions to start the day earlier, which suits those people who live locally but may require some people to travel the day before, adding to the expense of attending the Forum. The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium is committed to providing affordable events to ensure there is an opportunity for all who are interested to attend.

6. What next? Fire Science Forum 2020

The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium's annual Fire Forum is an event that is strongly supported by the wider community. The theme planned for next year's Forum (2020) is "Fire and Climate Change - what does the future hold?". Speakers relevant to this theme are being approached and it is anticipated that the forum will take place in Brisbane in June 2020.



(Image: Attendees enjoy the fresh air during a break at the Forum.)

7. Appendix

Appendix 1. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Steering Committee

The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Steering Committee meets approximately four times a year and guides growth, priority activities and strategic planning. The SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium gratefully acknowledges the contribution and commitment of previous Steering Committee members and the following current Steering Committee members:

- Chandra Wood (Chair) - Brisbane City Council
- Rodney Anderson - City of Gold Coast
- Bruce Bunkum - Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Paul Donatiu - Healthy Land and Water
- James Haig - Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- Francis Hines - Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- Peter Leeson - Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Dr Samantha Lloyd (Manager) – SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium/Healthy Land and Water
- Dr Geoff Lundie-Jenkins – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Stephen Martin - Powerlink
- Guy Morgan - Sunshine Coast Council
- David O’Connell - Logan City Council
- Mark Ready - Toowoomba Regional Council
- Michael Reif - Sunshine Coast Council
- Dr Tim Robson - City of Gold Coast
- Clare Rogers - Brisbane City Council
- Andrew Sturgess - Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- Cuong Tran – Former SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Coordinator
- Lee-Anne Veage – Logan City Council
- Craig Welden (Coordinator) – SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium/Healthy Land and Water
- John Young - Ipswich City Council

“Understanding fire isn’t rocket science...it’s much harder than that”.

OA Malcolm Gill