

Day 2 Opening Address

NICOLE VAN DORST

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First I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting; the Gadigal people. I would like to welcome everyone to the second day of the conference. My name is Nicole van Dorst, and I am here on behalf of Travers Bushfire and Ecology. I would also like to thank the other platinum sponsors, the NSW Rural Fire Service and The Office of Environment and Heritage.

For those of you who are not aware, Travers Bushfire and Ecology is a private consultancy company based on the Central Coast of New South Wales. A lot of the work we do is advising our clients on how to manage the bushfire risks on their land. Our clients range from individual landholders, developers, local councils, to state and commonwealth governments. Our work is guided by legislative codes such as the *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006* and the *Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code 2006*, as well as all the information I have been able to gather from this conference over these last two days.

The work we do and the legislation we follow, help to build resilient communities. However, this is just the first step. It is programs like the Hotspots Fire Project and the Bush Fire Survival Plan that build on community involvement, that in turn, maintain the community's resilience. I was recently asked if Travers Bushfire and Ecology received a lot of work by sponsoring this event, I would say, that it is probably negligible, but that is not the reason why we do it. We support this event because it is a great platform to support research and development, as well as to facilitate discussions. Travers Bushfire and Ecology Managing Director John Travers is a great supporter of the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for hosting such a great and informative event.

BIOGRAPHY

Mr John Travers is Managing Director of Travers Bushfire and Ecology. He is a landscape ecologist and specialises in bushfire and ecology. John spent 12 years with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in various locations, as a Field Manager before joining the Department of Bush Fire Services as Manager of Planning and Research, where he took on the delivery of fuel management plans. That experience led John towards private practice and the eventual undertaking of many exciting fire and ecological management projects - from the vastness of Yengo national park to the small urban parks. This year marks John's 32nd year working with fire and ecology and his passion remains strong.

Ms Nicole van Dorst is a Senior Bushfire Planner with Travers Bushfire and Ecology. She has over eight years' experience as a bushfire planner having completed many projects for both government and private clients. Nicole has formal qualifications in Applied Science and Bushland Regeneration and has completed the Graduate Diploma in Bushfire Protection.