

Conference Proceedings – Speaker Abstract

Coexistence with fire at the interface: sensitivities, opportunities and impediments

Senior Professor Ross Bradstock

Director – Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires
University of Wollongong

Please note the transcript and slides for Ross Bradstock's presentation are not publically available. Below is the abstract provided by the presenter.

Risk posed by fires to urban development is strongly affected by attributes of closely adjacent vegetation: aka. the bushland interface. Considerable evidence suggests that manipulation of vegetation in and around property (including gardens) has a strong effect on the magnitude of losses from fires. Modification of vegetation/fuel at the interface to mitigate risk from unplanned fires provides a seemingly simple and cost-effective way to reduce risk. There are, however, formidable impediments and challenges for implementation of solutions of this kind that hinge on the perceptions, attitudes and capacity of residents, and the limitations of overarching policy and legislation. To what extent can we reimagine the interface with bushland if we are to improve our ability to co-exist with fire? What would such a dream look like and how would people react? What barriers limit the degree to which dreams can become reality?

Ross's published articles are available [here](#).