

Newsletter

9/5/2019

The newsletter is to provide stakeholders quarterly updates on the progression of projects.

Quantifying Catastrophic Bushfire Consequences (Project IGNIS)

» **Project objectives:**

- Gain an understanding of the consequences electricity networks may face from major bushfires caused by their assets
- Identify the tangible and intangible aspects for decision making
- Understand the exposure to alternative management practices that may reduce bushfire risk
- Update research practices to inform planning for future network designs

» **There is interest to undertake the project because:**

- There is no accepted approach to quantifying the consequences and benefits of undertaking bushfire mitigation investment.
- Studies in the area are out-dated
- Calculating intangible costs of catastrophic fires is challenging

» **Team members**

Contact	Association
Monishka Narayan	Energy Networks Australia
Sarah Mizzi	Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC
Trent Penman	University of Melbourne
Veronique Florec	University of WA
Brett Cirulis	University of Melbourne
Kate Parkins	University of Melbourne
Ian Fitzpatrick	Essential Energy
Dene Ward	Powercor
Frank Crisci	SAPN
David Wilkinson	United Energy
Bill Woods	AusGrid
Amir Sherkatmasoum	Western Power
Michael Emmett	TasNetworks
Stephen Martin	Powerlink

» **Timeframes**

Timeframe	Activities/Tasks
July – August 2018	Scoping and Initiation of the project
September – December 2018	Fire Simulation of the case studies
January – April 2019	Cost Estimations for the case studies
May – August 2019	Application of Bayesian Network
September – November 2019	Finalising project and report

» **What has been achieved so far:**

- A meeting where case studies were selected (NSW, VIC, SA, TAS)
- A request for data has been sent to the networks, and data has been received by the research team.
- Fire simulation runs in Phoenix RapidFire have been completed (see Milestone two report).
- Cost estimations for the case studies have begun with Dr Veronique Florec.

» **Challenges:**

The Implementation team for the project have had three meetings to date. Throughout the second and third meetings for the project, the implementation team have begun to discuss utilisation approaches for not only the 8 electricity networks that are involved in the project, but other stakeholders both within and external to the electricity industry. There have been a variety of robust discussions and suggested pathways to support awareness, dissemination and utilisation of the methodology. Specifically, there has been significant discussion on the order and timing of engagement with certain stakeholders, such as the AER and the most appropriate personnel to represent the project in those discussions.

» **One team approach:**

- In general, the ‘one team’ approach is working well, with free flowing communication between Implementation Team members via email in between meetings.
- Meetings held involve the project management team, research team and network representatives.
- The project Implementation Lead, Ian Fitzpatrick (Essential Energy) provides fantastic leadership to the team and is always available to seek guidance on key issues
- The networks continue to share data for the project with the research team.
- The value of the ‘one team’ approach is most strongly highlighted in the utilisation discussions in meetings, as different perspectives enrich the discussions.

» **Benefits to industry:**

- A body of research based on evidence to provide a methodology to the industry. This has been co-designed with the electricity sector to model tangible and intangible impacts of bushfires to inform investment decisions.
- Adaptable methodology that is able to accommodate new data inputs, and modified for other geographic regions.
- Supporting networks to use research insights to inform network decisions and innovation.
- Knowledge of how to better quantify consequences and justify investment decisions for mitigation activities, as well as inform other business planning and risk management.

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