



Flood
Resilience
Alliance

PERC: Southwest Tasmania Bushfires of Summer 2018/19

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In partnership
with:



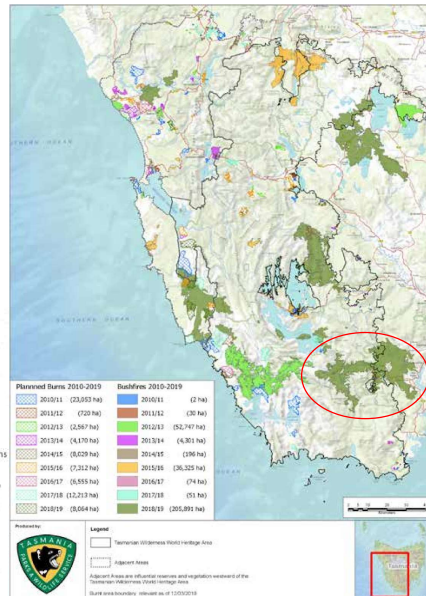
PERC: Post-Event Review Capability

- The Post-Event Review Capability (PERC) is a systematic framework for the analysis of a disaster event, focusing on how a specific hazard event became a disaster. The PERC process evaluates the successes and failures in the management of disaster risk prior to the event, disaster response and post-disaster recovery. PERC identifies future opportunities for intervention/action that could reduce the risk posed by the occurrence of similar, future hazard events. PERC uses a system-wide approach to review disasters, analysing across scales and sectors, and all aspects of the disaster management cycle – prospective and corrective risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery. It provides a bird's-eye view of why the disaster occurred and how resilience might be built.
- For full details see <https://floodresilience.net/perc>



The Bushfires

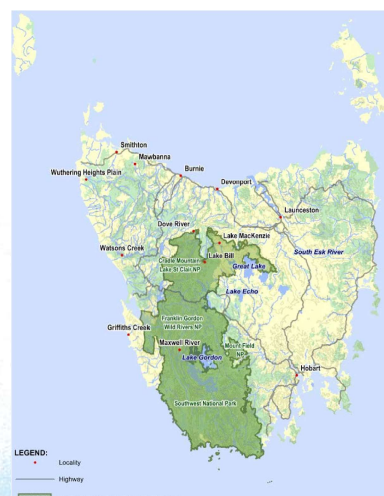
- Unprecedented, extreme bushfire weather/conditions.
- Started by 25000 lightning strikes, 70 ignitions, burnt over 200,000 ha.
- Four fire complexes in total, PERC focuses on the Riveaux Road Complex in the Southeast.
- Focus on community and business resilience.
- Destruction of tourism assets, forestry resource and ecosystems in the TWWHA.
- Smoke impacts on health and viticulture.



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The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area - TWWHA

- The TWWHA covers more than 1 million ha, one of the last significant regions of temperate rainforest in the world.
- One of the last stands of Gondwanan vegetation in the world, and it is not fire adapted.



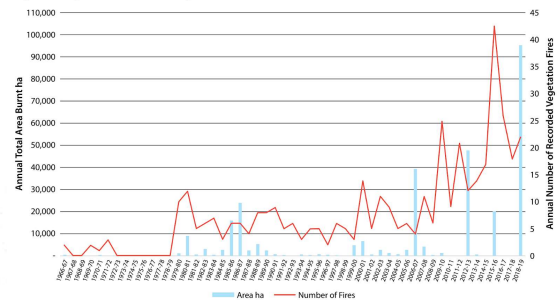
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A New Fire Regime in Tasmania



- Prior to 2000 bushfires in Tasmania were caused by arson and accidents; now they are caused by dry lightning strikes.
- Climate change has arrived in Tasmania and it's created a completely new fire regime. The last few years have seen record low rainfall and record heat creating a huge amount of fuel. This fuel is then ignited by dry lightning strikes.
- The fire services are not equipped to deal with this new fire regime.

Figure 9: 50-year TWWHA fire history data



Source: AFAC 2019, http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/userfiles/AFAC/AFAC_Review.pdf

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Key Insights



- **Climate change** will continue to drive worsening bushfire risk in Tasmania.
- **Risk reduction** is limited to prescribed burning. Key industries need climate change adaptation plans.
- **Community warnings and evacuations** worked well but challenges remain around cost-recovery.
- **Smoke impacts** are increasingly important to consider.
- **The role of research and science** is present but could be improved.



Community forum, Huonville



Prescribed burning

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Recommendations



- Other municipalities follow the good example of the Huon Valley LG in regards to planning and relationship with elected representatives.
- State-wide arrangements for community sector role in emergencies, including cost-recovery.
- Better communication of community and business grants.
- Expand TFS's community engagement/preparedness program.
- Further research on smoke and health, and risk mitigation for smoke taint on vineyards.
- Tourism, apiary and wine industry future planning.
- TWWHA management plan process including multi-stakeholder discussion of priorities.
- Re-establish relationships between conservationists and firefighters.
- Funding for fire and emergency services to implement the recommendations of previous reviews.