

Fire management in habitat islands: risks and impacts - a fauna perspective (abstract only)

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ABSTRACT

In the high production agricultural regions of South Australia native vegetation is extremely fragmented and frequently highly modified. Fire is regarded as both the major threat and the major habitat management tool in these isolated remnants. Two case histories are discussed which firstly illustrate the risks from wildfires, and secondly demonstrate the impacts of prescribed burning frequency on regeneration of the overstorey and its habitat value for hollow-dependent fauna. These case studies are used to discuss fire management issues in habitat islands. In areas subdivided by access tracks each block has the potential to be managed as a mosaic within a mosaic, but in the absence of internal access, use of fire for habitat management requires a sound understanding of fire behaviour, and a flexible ignition technique.

