



2016–17 Performance Highlights

Regional and Fire Management Services

Prescribed Burning

In the 2016-17 financial year, the department achieved 247,360 hectares of prescribed burning in its south-west forest regions due to preparation of burns during the preceding 12 months, committed staff and beneficial weather conditions. This was the department's best result in 29 years. A further 2,988,394ha was burnt in the department's other regions including the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast.

In its south-west forest regions, the department aims to have 45 per cent of the landscape it manages, around 2.5 million hectares, at less than six years since last burnt. This is used as an annual indicator of the effectiveness of the department's prescribed burning program in mitigating bushfire risk. At 30 June 2017, the figure was 40 per cent.

Bushfire Suppression

In 2016-17 departmental staff attended and monitored 526 bushfires which burnt approximately 1,062,958ha, of which 9171 ha occurred in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren).

Figure 1: Prescribed burning achievement in the south-west forest regions from 2002-03 to 2016-17

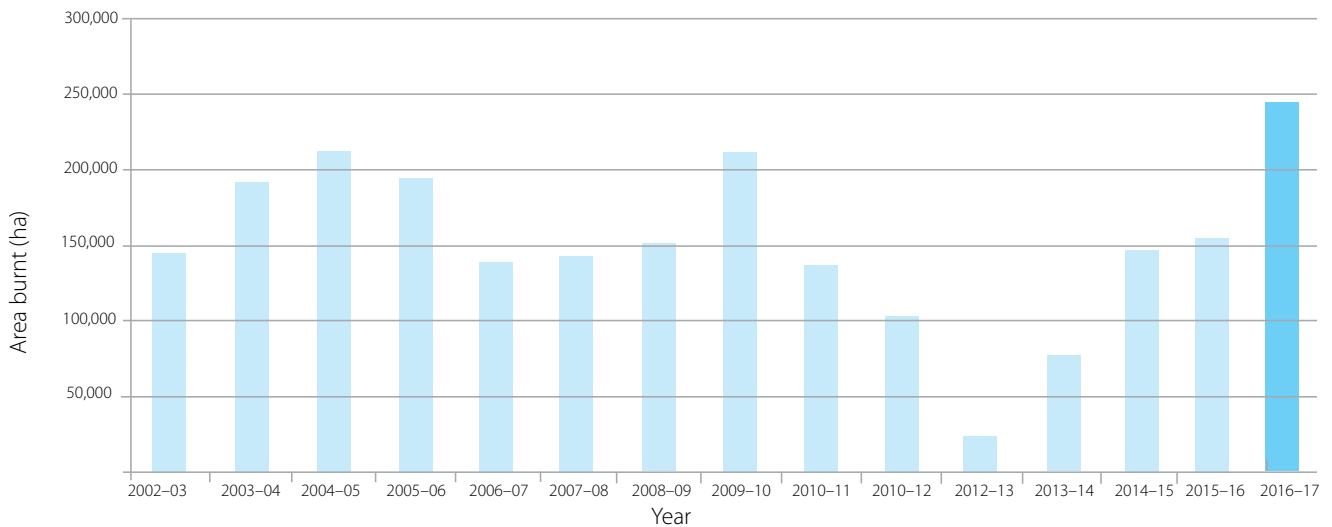


Figure 2: Prescribed burning in all regions from 1978-79 to 2016-17

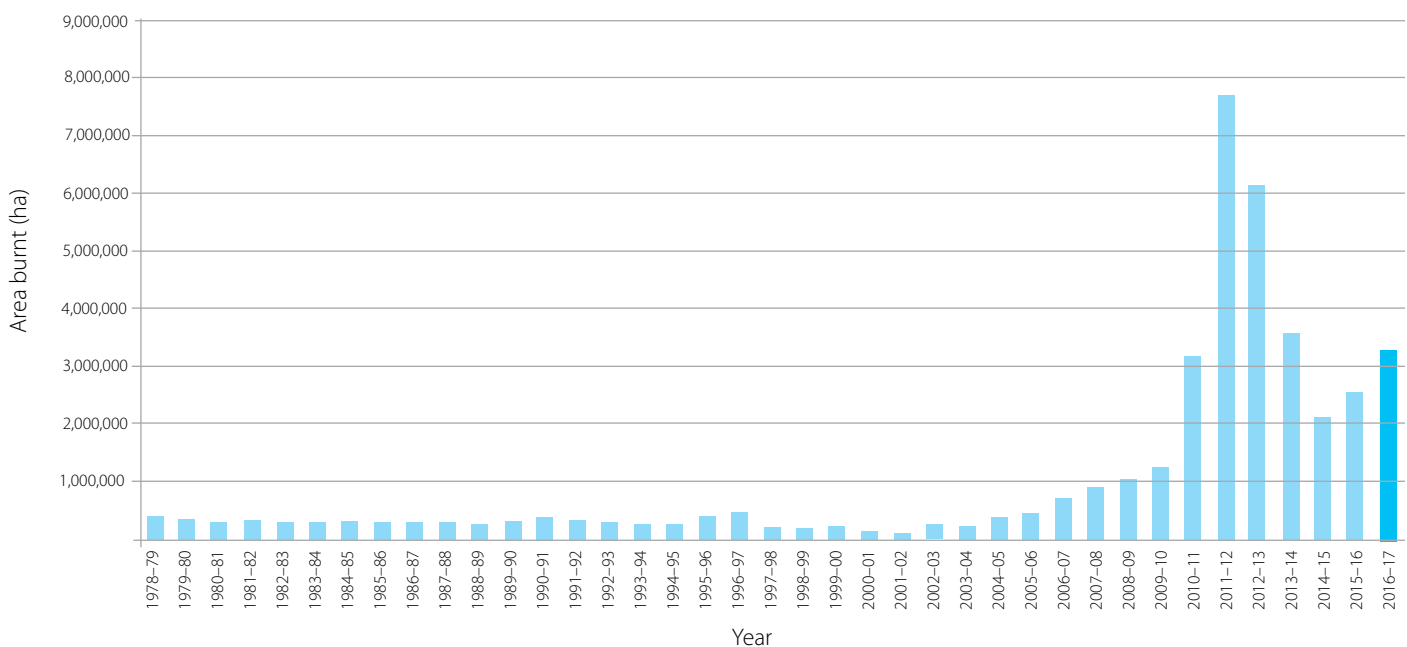




Figure 3: Fuel age in prescribed burns undertaken in the south-west forest regions in 2016-17

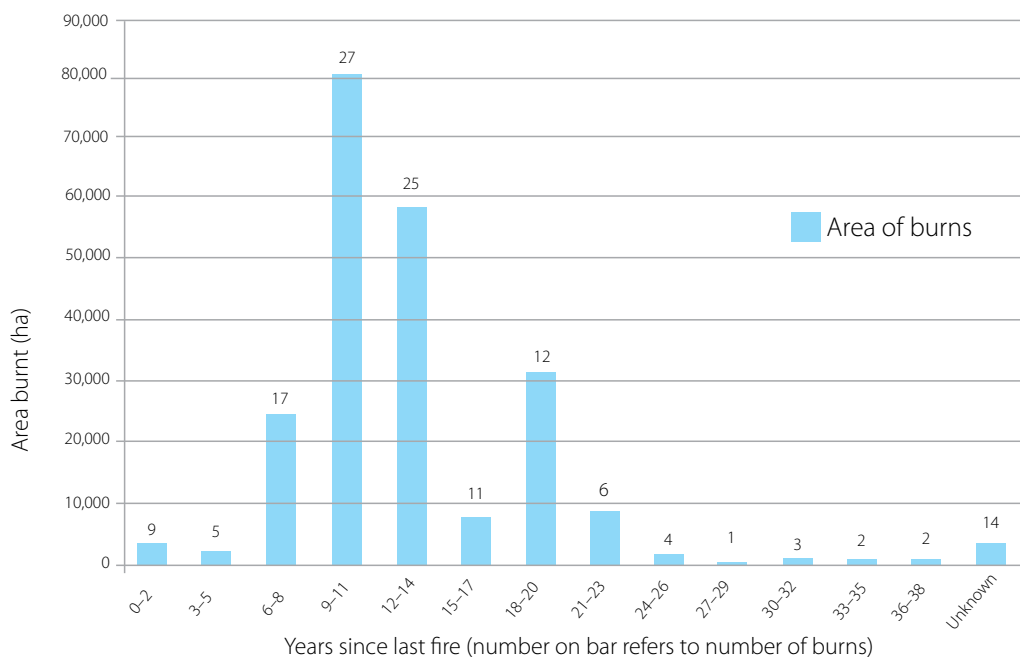


Table 1: Prescribed burns for all Parks and Wildlife regions from 2014-15 to 2016-17

South-west forest regions		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Swan	Area (ha)	62,793	45,205	26,273
	Number	61	49	64
South West	Area (ha)	28,920	44,771	62,785
	Number	34	42	40
Warren	Area (ha)	55,369	64,173	58,302
	Number	39	49	34
Sub total	Area (ha)	147,082	154,149	247,360
	Number	134	140	138
Other regions		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Kimberley	Area (ha)	1,967,339	2,198,477	2,739,296
	Number	17	13	15
Pilbara	Area (ha)	35	150,783	202,472
	Number	4	5	6
Midwest	Area (ha)	2,091	940	6,560
	Number	15	5	14
Goldfields	Area (ha)	2,796	3,175	34,857
	Number	6	5	4
Wheatbelt	Area (ha)	2,518	672	1,071
	Number	18	13	9
South Coast	Area (ha)	2,948	1,650	4,138
	Number	13	6	18
Sub total	Area (ha)	1,977,727	2,355,697	2,988,394
	Number	73	47	66
Grand total (All regions)	Area (ha)	2,124,809	2,509,846	3,235,754
	Number	207	187	204





Table 2: Area of prescribed burning for each local government area

Local government authority	Number	Area (ha)	Local government authority	Number	Area (ha)
CITY OF ALBANY	4	543	SHIRE OF ESPERANCE	7	378
CITY OF ARMADALE	4	7,577	SHIRE OF EXMOUTH	1	188
CITY OF BUSSELTON	4	1,399	SHIRE OF GINGIN	8	6,675
CITY OF GOSNELLS	1	86	SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK	1	534,170
CITY OF KARRATHA	1	4,556	SHIRE OF HARVEY	7	6,976
CITY OF MANDURAH	1	15	SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA	10	6,832
CITY OF ROCKINGHAM	1	21	SHIRE OF LAVERTON	1	4,456
CITY OF SWAN	5	1,689	SHIRE OF MANJIMUP	25	33,124
CITY OF WANNEROO	10	2,588	SHIRE OF MENZIES	1	30,154
SHIRE OF ASHBURTON	4	185,761	SHIRE OF MUNDARING	7	3,951
SHIRE OF AUGUSTA–MARGARET RIVER	7	6,387	SHIRE OF MURRAY	6	2,114
SHIRE OF BEVERLEY	4	34,313	SHIRE OF NANNUP	13	10,238
SHIRE OF BODDINGTON	7	18,974	SHIRE OF NORTHAM	1	161
SHIRE OF BRIDGETOWN–GREENBUSHES	7	2,390	SHIRE OF NORTHAMPTON	7	4,547
SHIRE OF BROOKTON	2	2,044	SHIRE OF PINGELLY	3	78
SHIRE OF BROOME	1	0	SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET	5	10,051
SHIRE OF CAPEL	1	11	SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE	3	1,838
SHIRE OF CARNAMAH	2	29	SHIRE OF SERPENTINE–JARRAHDAL	7	4,105
SHIRE OF CHAPMAN VALLEY	2	17	SHIRE OF THREE SPRINGS	1	321
SHIRE OF CHITTERING	1	2,001	SHIRE OF TOODYAY	2	6,316
SHIRE OF COLLIE	12	18,940	SHIRE OF WANDERING	4	17,581
SHIRE OF COOLGARDIE	2	229	SHIRE OF WAROONA	6	4,474
SHIRE OF CRANBROOK	2	317	SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR	3	1,816
SHIRE OF CUBALLING	2	526	SHIRE OF WILLIAMS	3	7,158
SHIRE OF DALWALLINU	1	136	SHIRE OF WILUNA	1	18
SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN	2	1,595	SHIRE OF WYNDHAM–EAST KIMBERLEY	12	1,734,936
SHIRE OF DARDANUP	4	1,330	SHIRE OF YILGARN	1	279
SHIRE OF DENMARK	3	9,993	SHIRE OF YORK	2	4,847
SHIRE OF DERBY–WEST KIMBERLEY	1	470,191	Grand total	258	3,235,754
SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK–BALINGUP	7	7,814			
SHIRE OF EAST PILBARA	1	11,967			

Note that burns are only included in multiple LGAs if more than 5% and more than 5ha of their total treated area is within the LGA*

**Table 3: Area (ha) of prescribed burns on each tenure type in 2016–17**

	Area (ha)
State forest	144,220
National parks	1,530,973
Nature reserves	34,960
Conservation parks	392,242
Softwood plantation	3,372
Unallocated Crown land	353,849
Other Crown land and private property *	776,138
Total area (ha)	3,235,754



* Includes other Crown land, other Parks and Wildlife-managed reserve, and private property

Bushfire suppression

The department is responsible for responding quickly and effectively to bushfires on, or near, department-managed land by maintaining an appropriate detection and response capacity. The desired outcome of the service is to ensure the impact of bushfires on communities and built and natural assets on, or near, land managed by the department is as low as reasonably practical. The following tables provide information on the department's involvement and management of bushfires during 2016–17.

Table 4: Bushfire causes from 2014–15 to 2016–17

BUSHFIRE CAUSES						
ALL REGIONS	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Deliberately/illegally lit	304	267	260	37	37	50
Escapes – Parks and Wildlife burns	8	4	6	1	1	1
Escapes – non-Parks and Wildlife burns	51	26	33	6	4	6
Accidental – timber industry	3	4	3	0	1	1
Accidental – other industries	39	35	28	5	5	5
Accidental – recreationists	78	37	47	9	5	9
Lightning	200	233	89	24	32	17
Unknown	120	91	48	15	13	9
Other causes	22	23	12	3	3	2
Total	825	720	526	100	100	100





Table 5: Bushfires attended and monitored by Parks and Wildlife in 2016-17

Region		State forest native hardwood	State forest softwood plantation	National parks	Nature reserves	Other Parks and Wildlife-managed Reserves	Other Crown lands	Private Property	Unallocated Crown land	Total
South-west forest regions										
Swan	Area (ha)*	212	165	36	15	1,025	6	543	185	2,187
	Number **	76	72	31	10	14	20	34	6	263
South west	Area (ha) *	4,527	5	8	3	12	4	490	0	5,049
	Number **	52	12	22	4	8	6	24	1	129
Warren	Area (ha) *	211		1,190	1	218		315		1,935
	Number **	12		10	1	1		5		29
Sub total	Area (ha) *	4,950	170	1,234	19	1,255	10	1,348	185	9,171
	Number **	140	84	63	15	23	26	63	7	421
Other regions										
Kimberley	Area (ha) *			470,017	1,886	191,725		203,675	34,671	901,974
	Number **			12	3	10		7	3	35
	Area (ha) *			53,025	107	154	6,145		3,666	63,097
	Number **			13	2	1	1		3	20
	Area (ha) *			5,085	274	78		3,488	750	9,675
Goldfields	Area (ha) *				21,572		1,295		6,240	29,107
	Number **				6		4		1	11
Wheatbelt	Area (ha) *	6			6	9	1	183		205
	Number **	2			1	0	1	2		6
South coast	Area (ha)*			366	47,993			1,155	215	49,729
	Number**			3	3			8	1	15
Sub total	Area (ha) *	6	0	528,493	71,838	191,966	7,441	208,501	45,542	1,053,787
	Number **	2	0	32	17	16	6	23	9	105
Grand total (all regions)	Area (ha) *	4,956	170	529,727	71,857	193,221	7,451	209,849	45,727	1,062,958
	Number **	142	84	95	32	39	32	86	16	526
		4,956	170	529,727	71,857	193,220	7,451	209,849	45,727	

* Area (ha) burnt by bushfires in the tenure type ** Number of bushfires originating in the tenure type

This information was prepared by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (which prior to 1 July 2017 was known as the Department of Parks and Wildlife).

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