

# SUMMARY

## Learning from Bushfires in Australia

Future climate conditions are expected to extend the fire seasons in Sweden and increase the occurrence of severe droughts. This will heighten society's vulnerability to forest fires, which in turn requires climate adaptation strategies for a variety of stakeholders, e.g. the general public, property owners, municipalities, and landowners. What these climate adaptation strategies entail, how they will be implemented, and who is responsible for maintaining them is not yet clear. In the FORMAS project "Not My Responsibility - Improved Preparedness for Forest Fires through Cross-Sectoral Dialogue (NoMR)", the goal is to bring together various stakeholders who have an interest in forming a cross-sectoral dialogue that enables a common understanding and knowledge base for assessing vulnerability and establishing responsibility. The project aims to create a holistic description of vulnerability to forest fires in Sweden that is quantifiable and transferable across spatial and temporal variables. On this basis, the distribution of responsibility and roles among stakeholders can be described and addressed in the cross-sectoral dialogue. NoMR focuses on Sweden but is strengthened by learning from other countries with more extensive experience with forest fires, such as Australia and the USA.

### Purpose and Goals

The project aims to increase understanding of forest fires from an Australian perspective. This goal will ultimately contribute to recommendations for community engagement and stakeholder involvement in Sweden, with direct lessons from a country with significantly more extensive experience with these issues.

The project's main goals are to:

- Learn from ongoing activities in Australia regarding stakeholder involvement and community engagement.
- Develop interview guides with input from international experts.

- Collect data in Australia for comparison with Swedish data.
- Develop a network of contacts in Australia for further development remotely after returning to Sweden.

### Research Questions

The main research questions for NoMR are:

- Which stakeholders are most significant for the prevention and response to forest fires?
- How is the issue of responsibility understood by professional and non-professional stakeholders when it comes to the prevention and response to forest fires?
- Can we learn sufficient information about forest fire ignition, growth, and extinguishing from laboratory tests and field tests to improve our understanding of forest fire risks under specific Swedish conditions?
- Can we promote a dialogue with stakeholders by clarifying the risk of forest fires and the stakeholders' responsibility concerning this risk?

The first two questions will be the focus of the Brandforsk exchange project, which is a (shorter) offshoot of the main project.

### Project information:

Project group: Margaret McNamee and Lucas Hovart from the University of Lund

Project time: 2023-08-01 – 2025-05-30

Project budget: 855 000 kr 165 000 kr from Brandforsk

*The project is an extension of the FORMAS project "Not My Responsibility - Improved Forest Fire Capability Through Increased Cross-Sectoral Dialogue" (DNR 2022-01843), with a total budget of 12 million SEK over 4 years. The project is a research collaboration between Lund University and RISE Research Institutes of Sweden*

### FINANCED BY BRANDFORSK

Brandforsk's activities are made possible by support from various organisations in the community. Read more at, [www.brandforsk.se](http://www.brandforsk.se)