

Project Statement

Project Title Sharing Responsibility

Researchers John Handmer (Project Leader) & Blythe McLennan (Researcher) - RMIT University

Lead End User Mick Ayre - Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service

Affiliations The project is a part of the research program of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) - www.bushfirecrc.com.
Research Program: *'Understanding Risk'*
Research Group: *'Community Expectations (Mainstreaming fire and emergency management across policy sectors)'*

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Background

Finding ways to share responsibility for community bushfire safety is an important and complex dilemma facing policy makers. Generally speaking, most types of risk - and therefore the responsibility to deal with the risk - are shared amongst a range of different parties. Often, the parties that create risk and influence how it is distributed within society bear little formal responsibility to manage or reduce it.

How responsibility to manage risk should be shared is therefore a normative issue that involves judgements about the appropriate roles and obligations of the different parties involved. In community bushfire safety, these parties include communities, households and individuals, fire agencies, different levels and sectors of government (including sectors outside emergency management), the insurance industry and other private sectors, non-government organizations as well as society more broadly – both local and global. Importantly, different parties frame responsibility-sharing issues in different ways. This leads to different assumptions about the best way to deal with these issues, creating conflict and ambiguity.

Project Goal

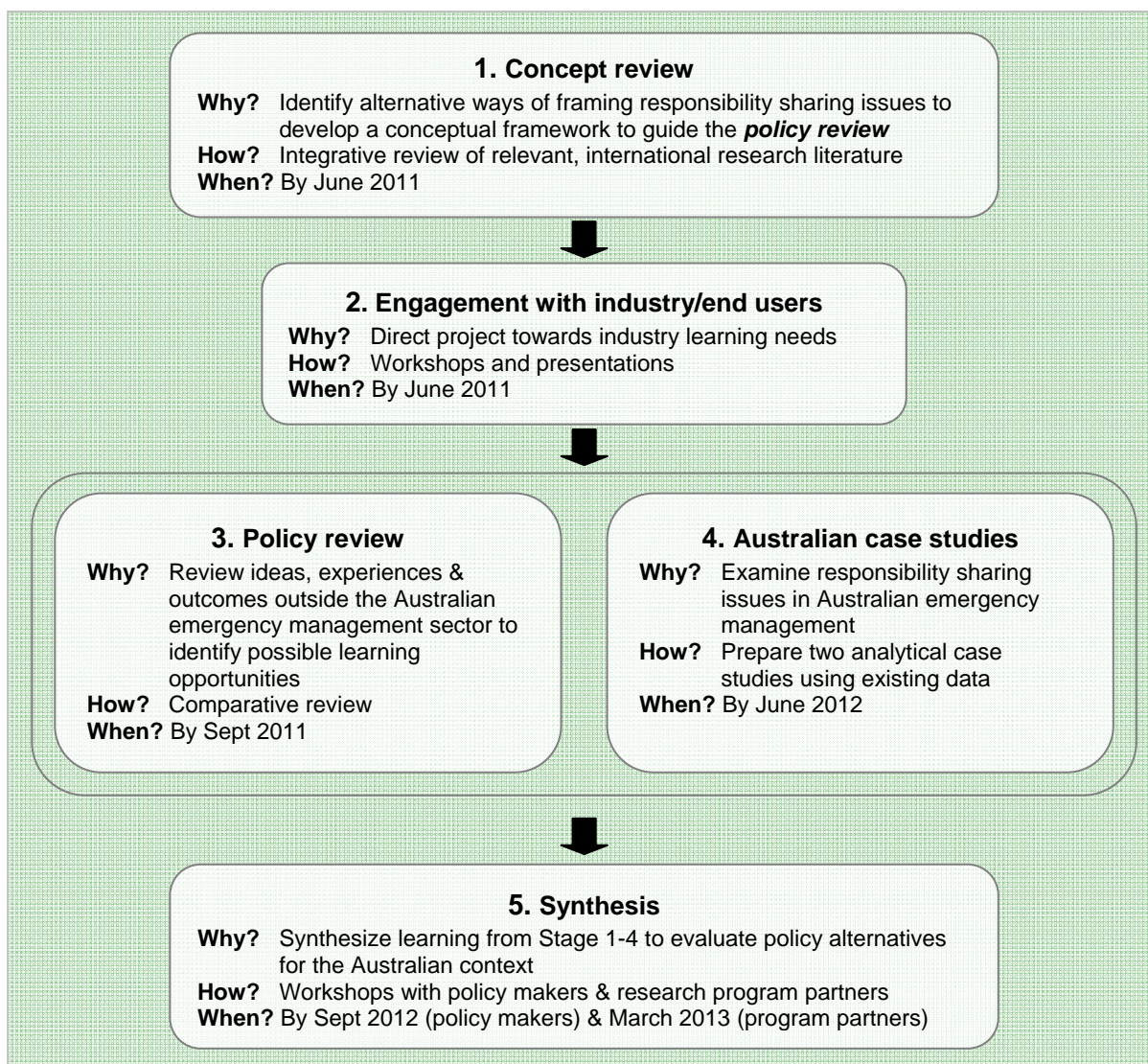
This research project aims to support the fire and emergency management sector to make decisions about sharing responsibility for community safety. It will identify alternative ways of framing responsibility sharing issues, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of alternative approaches.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Research papers published in international, peer-reviewed journals
- Staged industry reports and an integrated report for the 'Mainstreaming' research group
- Learning & evaluation workshops with fire and emergency management policy makers
- Discussion papers on topics related to linking research and policy
- Presentations at industry and research conferences in Australia and overseas
- Contribution to Bushfire CRC's research milestones set by the Australian Government

Overview of Research Process

The project, which began in August 2010, will take place in five stages over three years.



For further information, please contact:

Blythe McLennan
RMIT University, School of Mathematical and
Geospatial Sciences
GPO Box 2476, Melbourne VIC 3001
Tel: +61-3-9925-5227
Fax: +61-3-9925-2454
Email: blythe.mclennan@rmit.edu.au

Mick Ayre
Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821
Tel: +61-8-8946-4143
Fax: +61-8-8946-4123
Email: mick.ayre@nt.gov.au

Web page: <http://www.bushfirecrc.com/category/projectgroup/1-community-expectations>