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HAZARDSCRC

MANAGING ANIMALS IN DISASTERS (MAiD)

Improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

RAF PRESENTATION

8-9 APRIL 2015

An Australian Government Initiative

CRC AUSTRALIA

PROJECT TEAM AND END-USERS

University of Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life

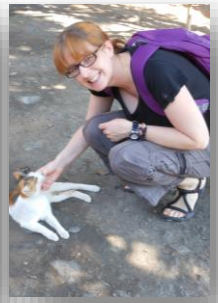
CQUniversity AUSTRALIA

RSPCA Queensland

Mel Taylor

Penny Burns

Megan McCarthy



Kirrilly Thompson

Bradley Smith

Greg Eustace

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Suellen Flint,
Director Community Engagement

Australian Capital Territory Emergency Services Agency

Andrew Stark
Chief Officer,
ACT RFS

SES NSW State Emergency Service

Peter Cinque
Region Controller
NSW SES

Tasmania Fire Service

Sandra Barber
Manager Community Education

Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Australian Emergency Management Institute

Katrina Beard
Manager – Education, Research, Training

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
State Government Victoria

Michael Hodder
Director, Operational Support and Capability,
Fire and Emergency Management Division

AIM AND GOAL

AIM - To identify and build best practice approaches to animal emergency management to enable engagement with animal owners, and other stakeholders in disasters and emergencies.

GOAL - The goal is to improve outcomes for public safety and the resilience of responders, animal owners, those with animal-related businesses, and communities.

APPROACH

Year	2013/4						2014/5												2015/6												2016/7											
Month (No.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Start-up																																										
Scoping																																										
Field work																																										
Development																																										
Assessment																																										
Consolidation																																										

OUTCOMES EXPECTED

- Systematic and critical evaluation of the broad systems issues – challenges and needs
- Identification of gaps in knowledge/action and prioritisation of those areas suitable for development of support tools/materials
- Directed in-depth understanding of the priority areas (through field studies) to inform tool development
- A set of prototype evidence-informed support tools/materials that have been subject to initial assessment

YEAR ONE - SCOPING

- **Critical audit**: formal policies, procedures and local initiatives, current research
- **SA bushfires interviews:** livestock producers' experiences
- **Responder survey**: responder experiences and needs
- **Stakeholder survey**: organisational challenges and needs, priority groups
- **Knowledge exchange workshop:** one-day meeting (Sydney, August)

MAiD NEWSLETTER July 2014 ISSUE 1

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MAiD AWARE

July 2014

Managing Animals in Disasters

Improving preparedness, response and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration

IN THIS ISSUE

Introducing MAiD

The Managing Animals in Disasters (MAiD) project is a Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) initiative and is part of the Communication and Warnings cluster of projects. It commenced in January 2014 and will run for three and a half years – ending in June 2017.

AIM - The MAiD initiative is seeking to identify and build best practice approaches to animal welfare emergency management to enable engagement with animal owners, and other stakeholders in disasters/emergencies.

GOAL - The goal is to improve outcomes for public safety and the resilience of responders, animal owners, those with animal-related businesses, and their communities.

In this project 'animal owners' include pet owners, small land holders with animals, those with animal-related businesses, and farmers with livestock. Similarly, 'responders' may include emergency services personnel, staff from Primary Industries or local government, RSPCA or Red Cross personnel, and could extend to private vets, animal rescue, shelter volunteers, or enthusiastic members of the general public.

The main areas of focus of the project are shown in the table below.

P	Prevention	- Emergency management engagement with owners, communities, and other responders.
P	Preparedness	
R	Response	- Coordination with other emergency service agencies and participating organisations. - Management of owners and their animals, and untrained animal-related volunteers.
R	Recovery	- Supporting owners and communities post-disaster to build resilience.

OUTPUTS – Project activities will lead to the development of evidence-informed support tools to assist operational response, communication and professional development. These could include training resources, guidelines, or engagement materials.

MAiD

Introducing MAiD
A quick run through the project aims, goals, and planned outputs.

The first six months and beyond
What have we been doing? Summary of early project start-up activities and our plans for the first year of the project.

Hello from the project team
Who are we, and who are we working with? An introduction to the project research team and our project end-user organisations.

Scoping responder needs and priorities
A summary of our early data collection with responders at the Australian Community Engagement and Fire Awareness Conference (ACEFA), Wollongong, May 2014.

Getting the message out
Project dissemination: poster presentation at the Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Gold Coast, May 2014.

Student news
An introduction to two PhD students conducting research linked to the MAiD project. Both with interesting backgrounds...

Coming up
Our major MAiD project event of 2014 – the Knowledge Exchange Workshop – and future conference presentations.

CRC

An Australian Government initiative

SA BUSHFIRE INTERVIEWS

CQUni team members – CFS/BNHCRC community taskforce

Determine the levels preparedness, expectations and experiences of livestock producers during bushfires

- 41 livestock producers – 3 field sites
- Threatened by significant bushfires in January 2014

SA BUSHFIRE INTERVIEWS

Few livestock producers had formal bushfire plans

General low concern for bushfire threat

High self efficacy

Stay and defend

No plan B

Insurance (usually under-insured or not at all)

Conduct risky behaviour moving sheep and defending property at the last minute

Don't utilise materials/information or warnings, or attend community programs or meetings

Don't utilise emergency management information- rely heavily on local networks

Smith, Taylor, Thompson AJEM (April 2015)

RESPONDER SURVEY

Aims

To assess attitudes towards operational responsibility for animals.

To scope the range and extent of challenges faced by emergency services personnel in their interactions with animals and their owners

Goal

To gather the views and experiences of a broad cross-section of emergency services personnel operating across Australia and all hazards

- Data collected May – July 2014
- 165 respondents

RESPONDER SURVEY

Themes	%
Examples of dangerous/risky behaviour or inappropriate actions	26.4
Refusal to leave or be parted from animals	22.6
Comments about horses and horse owners as a special case	17.0
Details of emotional responses of owners	13.2
Experiences with dangerous animals/animal behaviour	13.2
Issues around owners returning/wanting to return early or being denied access	11.3
Owners' focus solely on animals and ignoring risk to self and others	9.4
Owners having unrealistic expectations of the level of help from emergency services	7.5
Problems with response co-ordination - with groups/agencies or absent owners	5.7

'*very emotional situations in time of large fires endangers staff and public*'

'*Roads used for evacuating communities blocked by horse floats… People helping to evacuate friends' horses with no plan or idea of the area and not knowing the roads into or out of the area they have gone into to assist.*'

RESPONDER SURVEY

- Need for education/clarification and clearer communication about the role and responsibilities of emergency services organisations
- Cultural shift required to meet changing public attitudes and expectations
- Initial quantification of the issue
- Identification of specific issues
  - •Logistics
  - •Unclear policy/operational responsibility
  - •Interactions with owners during response

Taylor et al., BNHCRC Research Forum (December 2014)
Smith et al., PLoS Currents Disasters (January 2015)

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Comprehensive national survey of Australian Response Organisations and other relevant stakeholders involved in the management of animals and their owners in emergencies and disasters

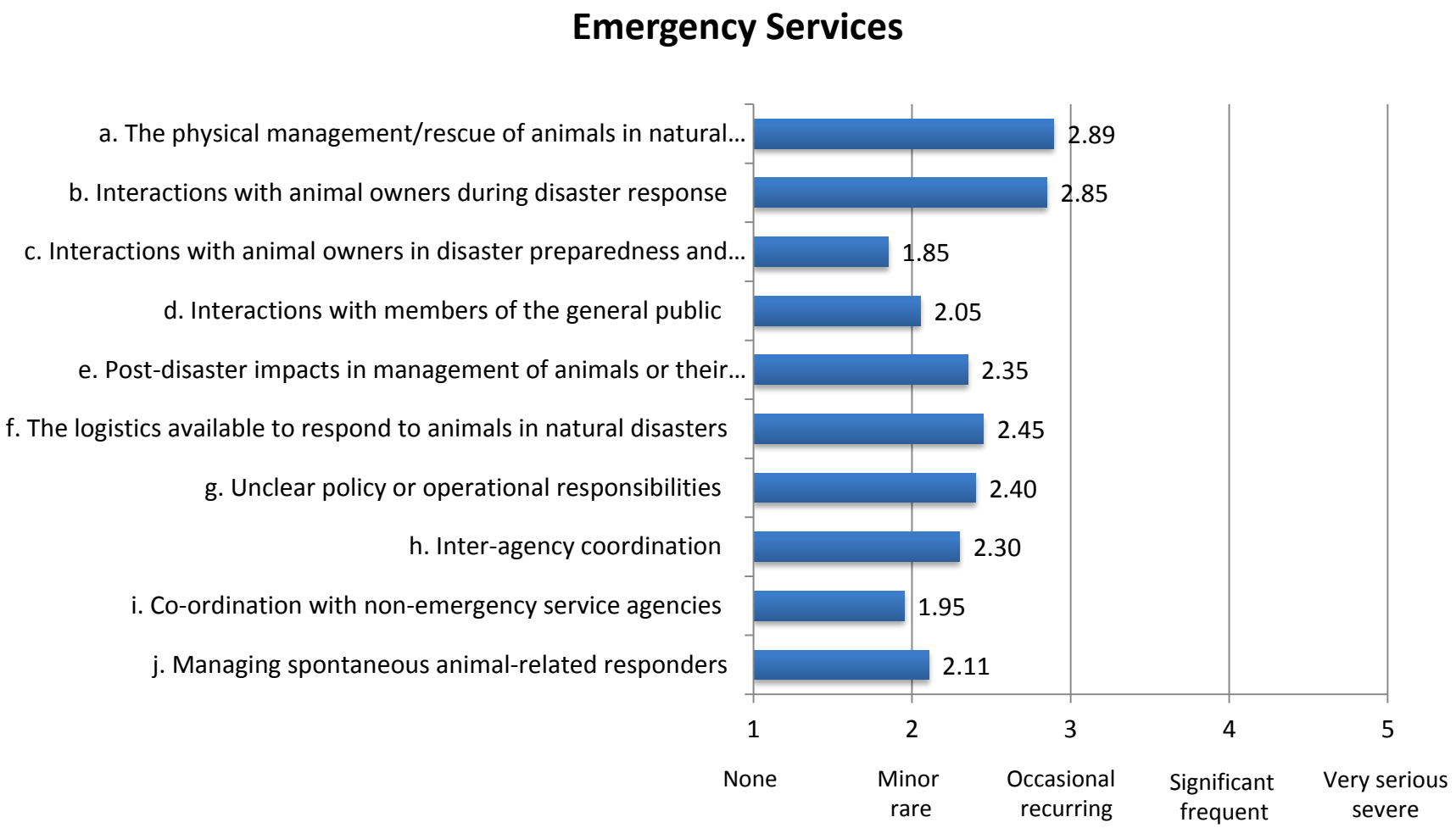
AIM - to identify and prioritise the challenges encountered by these organisations in the management of animals and animal owners

Data collected July – August 2014

- 98 respondents
- 68 organisations
- Range of organisations (categorised)

Taylor et al., AJEM (April 2015)

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

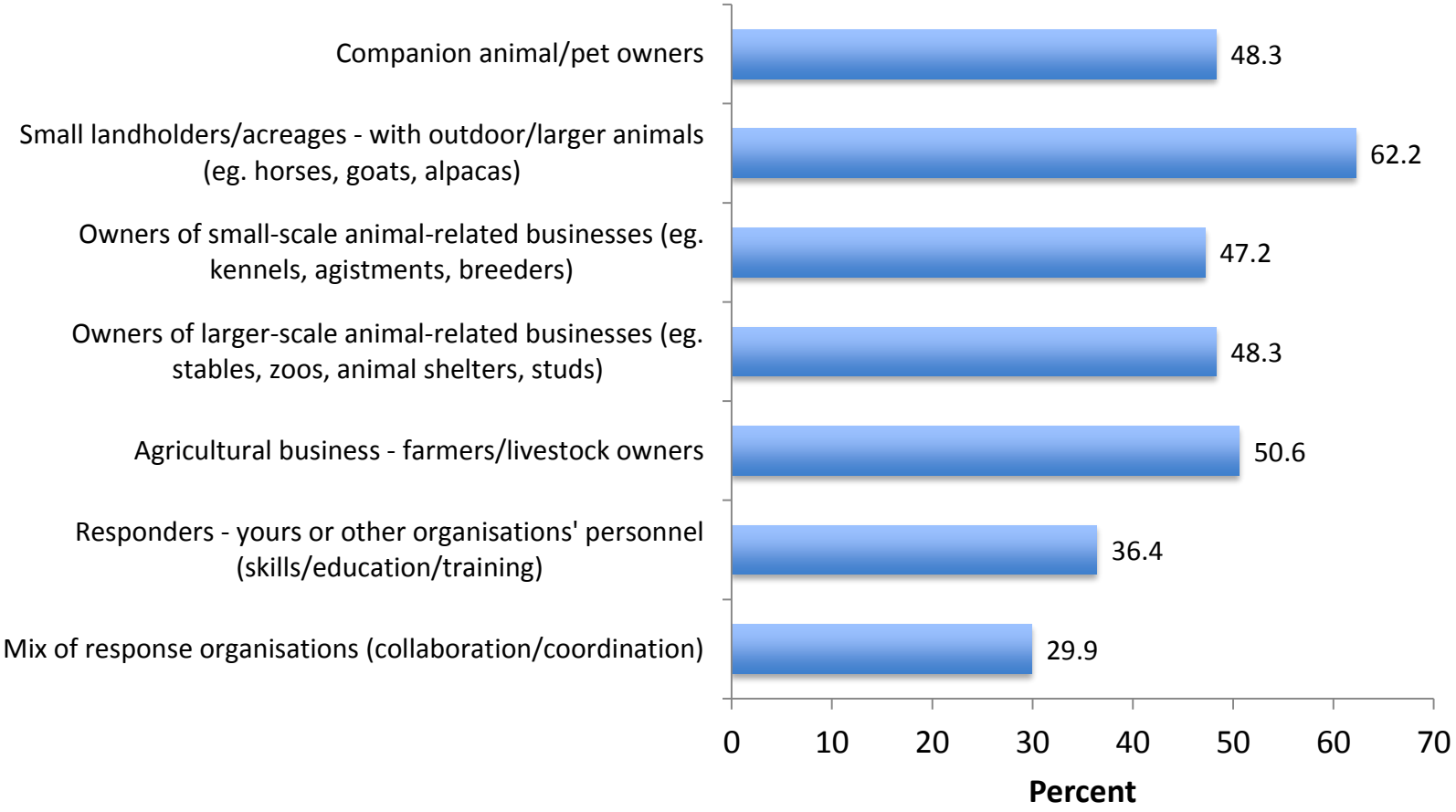


MAIN ISSUES BY ORGANISATION CATEGORY

	1	2	3
Emergency Services	a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters (2.89)	b. Interactions with animal owners during disaster response (2.85)	f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters (2.45)
Primary Industries	a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters (2.95)	f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters (2.89)	d. Interactions with members of the general public (2.80)
Local Government	f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters (3.23)	b. Interactions with animal owners during disaster response (2.69)	a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters (2.62)
Animal organisations	j. Managing spontaneous animal-related responders (2.87)	f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters (2.67)	e. Post-disaster impacts in management of animals or their owners (2.60)
RSPCA	f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters (4.25)	g. Unclear policy or operational responsibilities (4.00)	a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters (4.00)
Other Govt Agencies	j. Managing spontaneous animal-related responders (3.14)	d. Interactions with members of the general public (2.86)	a. The physical management/rescue of animals in natural disasters (2.71)
Human welfare	e. Post-disaster impacts in management of animals or their owners (3.33)	b. Interactions with animal owners during disaster response (3.00)	f. The logistics available to respond to animals in natural disasters (2.33)

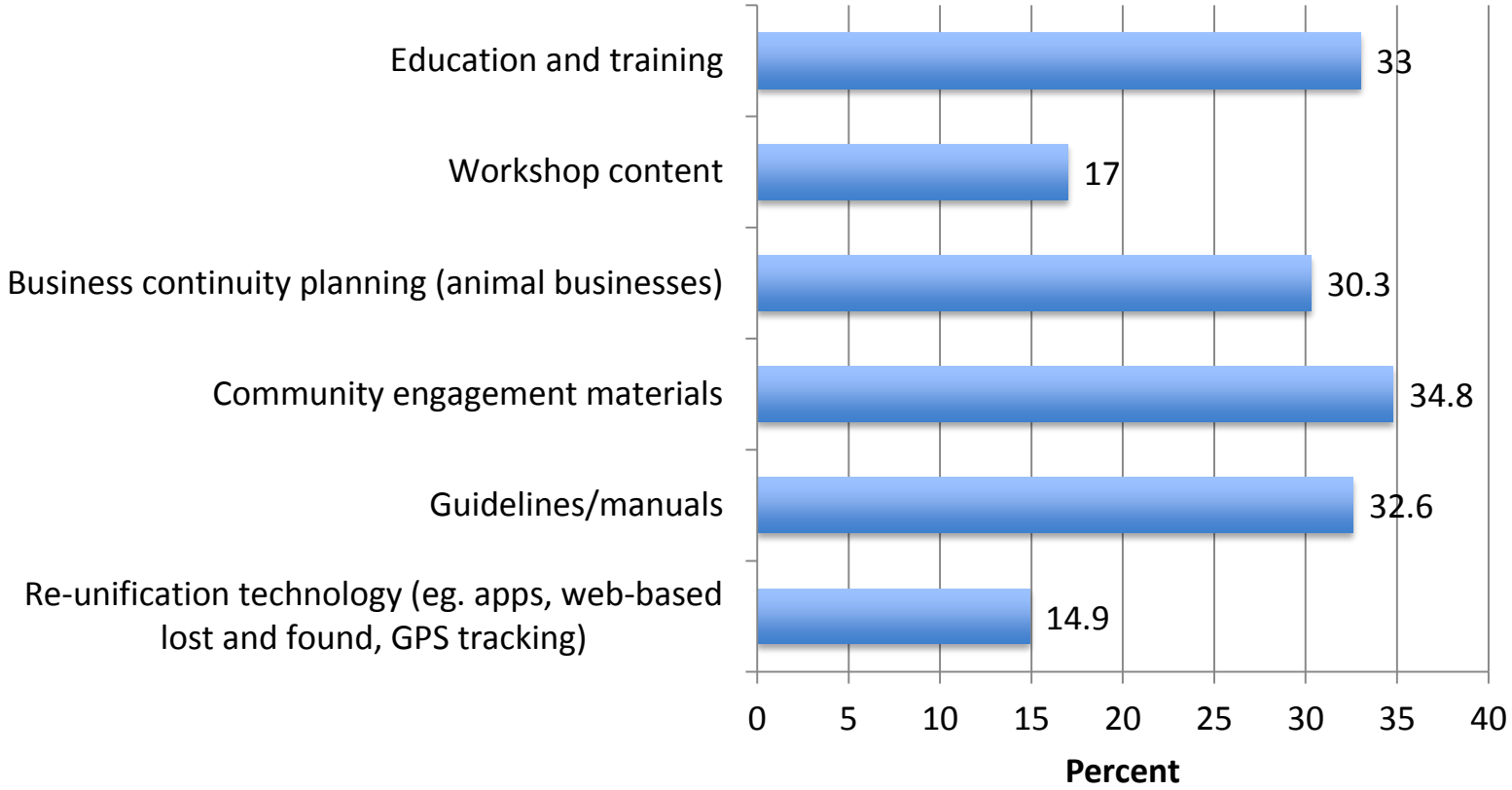
PRIORITY AREAS – OWNER GROUPS/FOCUS AREA

All stakeholders - 'High priority'



TYPES OF OUTPUT MOST USEFUL

All stakeholders - 'Extremely useful'



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WORKSHOP

Aim

To assist in planning the field study stage of the project by

- bringing together researchers, end-users, and stakeholders
- discussing and sharing information/knowledge

- 24 stakeholder organisations represented
- police and emergency services, primary industries, university sector, and animal advocacy and welfare

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Tuesday 19 August 2014
Venue: Rydges Sydney Central, 28 Albion Street, Surry Hills

0845	REGISTRATION / NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY	
0915	Introductions	*Greg Eustace (Facilitator)*
0930	Welcome from the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre	(TBC)
0930	*MAiD Project Overview*	*Mel Taylor*
0950	People – Animals - Business	*Greg Eustace*
1010	Setting the scene (interactive scenario)	*Harald Wolpert*
1030	MORNING TEA (30 mins)	
1050	*A tangled web: review of policies, plans, and responsibilities*	*Greg Eustace*
1100	Plenary Discussion – Is there a common operating picture? • Legislation, policies, procedures – how it needs to work in states and jurisdictions • Current and recent initiatives – learning from the best and avoiding duplication	
1125	Plenary feedback	
1140	*Responder experiences and stakeholder priorities: MAiD scoping surveys*	*Mel Taylor*
1150	Plenary Discussion – What do stakeholders want? • Stakeholder organisations' priorities and needs – what's in the mix and in scope? • Lessons observed from the past – moving forward, future challenges	
1215	Plenary feedback	
1230	LUNCH (45 mins)	
1315	*Preparedness, expectations, and experiences: Livestock producers and companion animal owners – study feedback*	*Brad Smith / Mel Taylor*
1335	Plenary Discussion – What do animal owners and communities need? • Considering animal owners/animal enterprise owners and communities – identifying priority needs • Effective community engagement strategies – ways to support and work with animal owners	
1355	Plenary Feedback	
1420	*Priority areas, gaps, target groups and MAiD project outputs: Stakeholder feedback*	*Mel Taylor*
1445	Plenary Discussion – How can MAiD succeed? • Priority areas, gaps, target groups – what (or who) is amenable to change? • Tools, training, support materials – identifying the best project outputs to develop	
1435	Plenary Feedback	
1450	AFTERNOON TEA (15 mins)	
1505	*Establishing the priorities - reviewing the feedback – creating a shortlist*	*Mel Taylor*
1530	Closing Remarks	(TBC)
1545	CLOSE	

University of Western Sydney · RSPCA · RMIT University

Taylor, Eustace, McCarthy, BNHCRC (December 2014)

YEAR TWO – FIELD WORK

- Emergent informal volunteer groups
- Peri urban animal owners
- Agricultural flood study

EMERGENT INFORMAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS

AIM - to explore the integration of informal volunteers into animal emergency management. Sampson Flat bushfire will be used as a case study to explore questions regarding the challenges for, and strengths and limitations of, informal volunteering in this context.

Series of semi-structured interviews

- Coordinators/administrators of emergent informal volunteer groups
- Members of established animal organisations (extending)
- Members of the volunteer group South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management (SAVEM),
- Trained emergency services personnel and personnel from key government agencies

‘PERI URBAN’ ANIMAL OWNERS

What are the needs, issues of and challenges for peri-urban animal owners/enterprise owners in emergency management?

What are the challenges posed for emergency responders?

How can we improve the interface between peri-urban animal owners/enterprise owners and emergency responders to improve emergency management?

- Bushfire risk (Tas) and Flood risk (NSW) contexts
- Mixture of animals requiring different preparations
- May ‘host’ animals not belonging to them (agistment/boarding)
- Stronger, more individuated human-animal bonds with large animals like alpacas and horses, and non-household pets like chickens

AGRICULTURAL FLOOD STUDY

Queensland-based
Cattle farmers

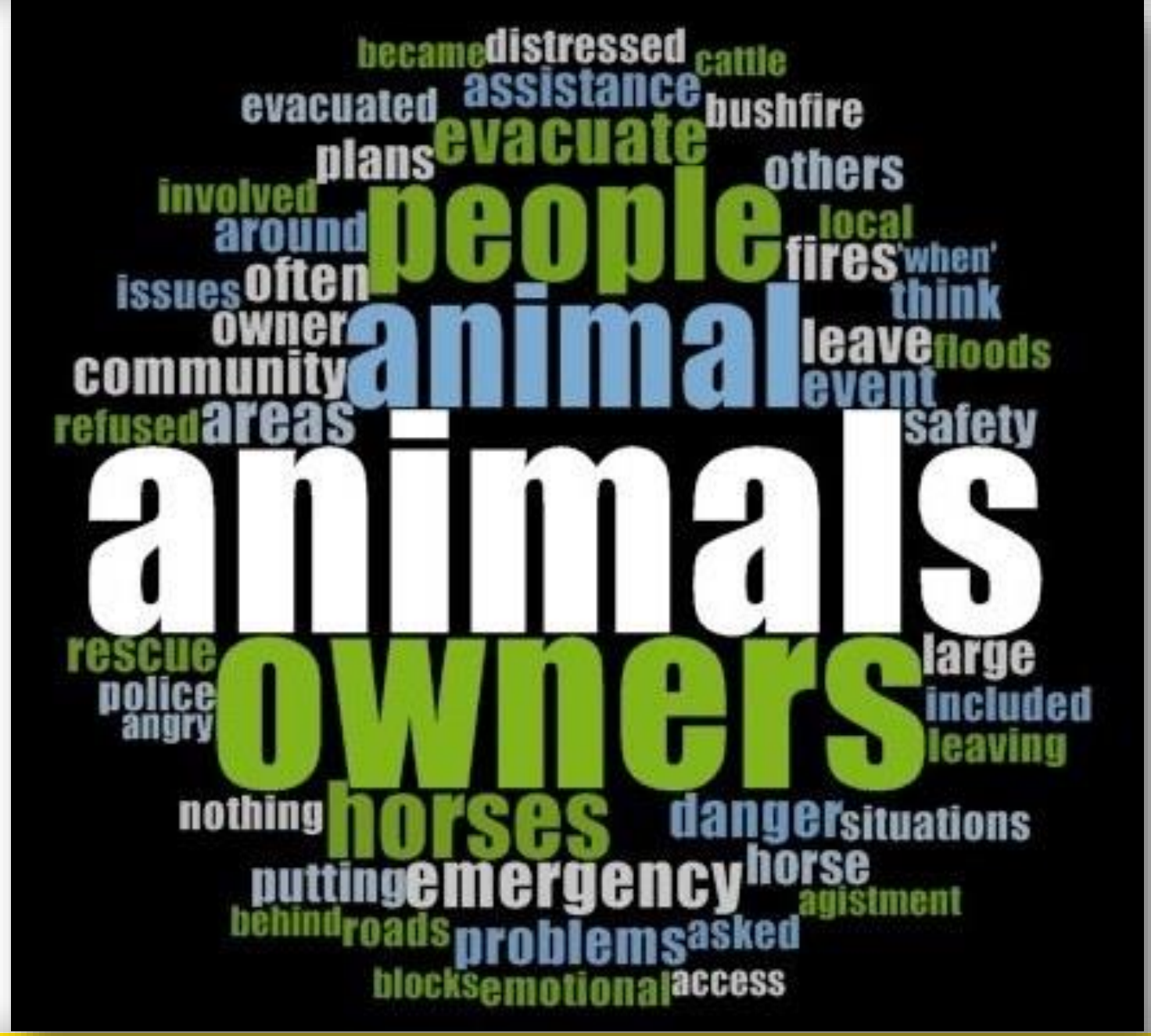
PHD STUDENT RESEARCH

Rachel Westcott

Investigating the application of protection motivation theory to the behaviour of animal owners and emergency responders in bushfire natural hazards

- Sequential mixed methods study
- Port Lincoln, SA
- Primary responders
- Secondary responders
- Animal owners

QUESTIONS


became
distressed
cattle
assistance
evacuated
bushfire
evacuate
plans
others
involved
people
local
around
fires
'when'
issues
often
think
animal
owner
leave
floods
community
event
refused
areas
safety
animals
rescue
owners
large
police
included
angry
leaving
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