



Fire Lessons Learnt Workshop

Sharing US and Australasian Experiences

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Fire Knowledge Network Background

- 2002-2003 fire season highlighted the need to conduct more fire research and disseminated research outcomes more widely
- 2003-Bushfire CRC received additional funding from DEST for increased communication and public outreach programs
- The Bushfire CRC Board identified the value in establishing an enduring industry and community resource and this led to the concept of

The Fire Knowledge Network



Why a Fire Knowledge Network?

- Existing fire knowledge widely dispersed and fragmented - hard to find
- Information overload - can't keep up with what 'need to know'
- Link end-users and researchers - collaboration
- Desire to share experiences and learning's
- Need for evidence-based research to underpin policies, procedures, operations
- Promote and communicate bushfire science
- Loss of 'corporate' memory - staff turnover, restructuring, downsizing



What is the Fire Knowledge Network?

UNIQUE to the fire industry:

The Network is a focal point for fire knowledge that connects research, information, experience and people through:

- **Australasian Centre for Lessons Learnt** - learning from past experience
- **Fire Reference and Research** - leading national and international fire research
- **Communities of Practice** - collaboration and knowledge exchange, workshops, forums
- **Consultancy Services** - literature reviews, publications
- **Web site** to link it all together



Why a “Fire” Centre for Lessons Learnt?

- Need to address recommendations from COAG and other inquiries
- Agencies lack the resources and skills to translate meaning to recommendations
- Share learnings and experiences - repeat successes not failures
- Connect people - exchange experiences and knowledge
- Reduced risk - better bushfire management



Why a “Fire” Centre for Lessons Learnt?

- Establish common systems and processes to identify learnings
- Methods to transfer learnings into action
- Ability to identify opportunities to leverage business value from learning's



Aims - Centre for Fire Lessons Learnt

- Provide the mechanism for giving 'meaning and relevance' to experiences and learnings
- Implement processes to capture and share learnings across the fire industry
- Provide mechanism for like communities to share information
- Influence change (translate learnings into action):
 - Policies, programs, services, procedures, practices, training, professional development



Phase One - Approach

- Australasian Fire Lessons Learnt Centre web site as part of the Fire Knowledge Network
- 'Public' repository of reports, documents web links to a history of iconic fires in Australia and New Zealand over the last 20 years
- Identify post incident analysis/AAR's that are produced within agencies that can be shared through agencyXchange secure interface
- Limited translation/synthesis
- Links to international lessons learned centres and reports



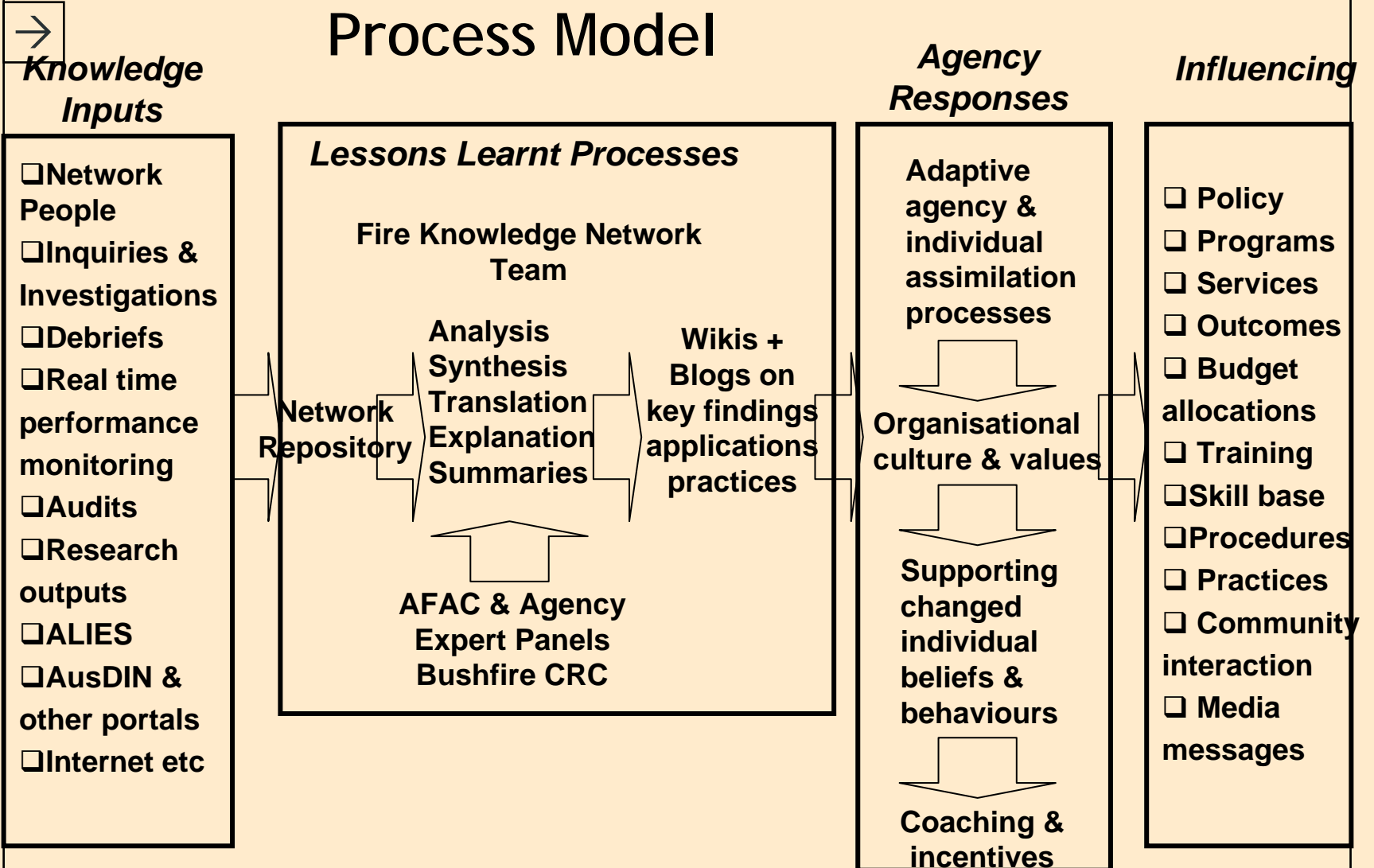
Challenges

- Litigation - industry concerns about 'transparency' and potential to be sued
- TRUST - people will only share in environments of trust (no blame)
- Debriefs are sometimes 'sanitised' and lessons may be lost
- Resistance to change - "this is the way we have always done it and never had a problem"
- Belief that 'our' agency is different and therefore same lesson doesn't apply
- Cultural change is slow - tendency to lose faith



Collaborative Approach

- Fire Knowledge Network and Centre for Fire Lessons Learnt belong to the industry
- Maximise existing capabilities and resources from within the agencies
- Close alignment with AFAC - particularly in supporting cultural change through knowledge networking and training
- International links with US Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre
- Participant in EMA plan to develop national Lessons Learned approach for "all hazards"





Web site Prototype



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The Fire Knowledge NETWORK

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What's New

Are Big Fires Inevitable?

Keynote speaker – Mr Jerry Williams, Senior Advisor the Brookings Institution, USA

 Part 1 [Audio - MP3 - 5mb](#)

Latest Fire News

Trust looks at new approach to bushfire

ABC Online, Australia - June 26, 2007

"So we thought we'd go straight to the experts and give them the opportunity to talk to the public."

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Research Findings

Research Project - NSW Uni Prescribed Burning

Who compiled the research - May 17, 2007

★★★★★ (36 ratings)

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Questions?