

# **International Wildland Fire Summit**

## **Briefing Notes as at 25 September 2003**

### ***Background***

This is the inaugural International Wildland Fire Summit. It was proposed and is being supported by the International Liaison Committee that was established to arrange the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Wildland Fire Conference and Exhibition to be held in Sydney from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October. This conference follows successful conferences in Boston, USA in 1989 and Vancouver, Canada in 1997. The drive to hold a Summit comes from a widely held concern that more can be done to improve cooperation at an international level in the prevention and suppression of wildland fires. Many of the key players will be in Sydney for the Conference, so it made sense to organise the Summit immediately following.

### ***Venue and Date***

Sydney Convention Centre, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003 from 0830 to 1800 hrs.

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Summit is to identify immediate and pragmatic measures by which to improve international cooperation in wildland fire management.

### ***Host:***

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, NSW Minister for Emergency Services will host the Summit.

### ***Chair***

The Hon Neville Wran QC, former Premier of NSW, will chair the Summit.

### ***Scope Statement***

A comprehensive Scope Statement has been developed and distributed to invitees. The Scope Statement gives details of the objectives, position papers, program, invitation process and membership of the International Liaison Committee (ILC).

### ***Invitees***

The Summit is for invited participants only, although provision has been made for non-speaking advisors and observers to be included. Six invitees were nominated from each of the ten regions of the world as described in the scope statement. In addition, all members of the ILC were invited, along with representative of international agencies with a key interest in the outcome. Invitees were selected for their expertise in wildland fire management and their capacity to influence the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit within their own domestic jurisdiction.

To date, 155 invitations have been sent out and 85 acceptances from 36 countries and 9 international agencies have been received. 34 invitees have declined. Efforts are now being directed towards following up with those who have yet to reply.

### ***Anticipated Outputs***

The Scope Statement proposes the discussion of four position papers that will have been distributed to invitees before the meeting. It is anticipated that participants will debate the four papers and decide on a form of words for each one acceptable to the meeting. The agreed position papers will then form the substance of a communiqué that will be distributed following the meeting. Copies of the four position papers are available from the Executive Officer.

### ***Design and Organisational Issues***

The Summit floor layout will be a horseshoe shape to facilitate easy debate and discussion. The flags of each country will be displayed, as will the name of each invited country or agency. Each invitee will be provided with a folder containing a draft communiqué, the position papers and guided response pages to facilitate response to each of the papers. Souvenir pens are also being provided.

A photographer will be on hand to take a group photo of Summit invitees. It is intended that the photo will be available before the close of the meeting.

Lunch will be provided in a nearby reception room. This will include a two course seated meal with platters of starters and tea/coffee.

### ***Summit Dinner***

A dinner cruise on the harbour for Summit participants is being arranged. The cruise will be hosted by the NSW Minister for Emergency Services, The Hon Tony Kelly. The cruise will depart Darling Harbour at 1830 hrs and return at 2130 hrs. A two-course seated dinner and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

### ***Media Coverage***

Media coverage for the Summit is being coordinated by the Corporate Communications Unit of NSW Rural Fire Service.

### ***Funding Support***

Funding support for the Summit has been provided by:

The International Tropical Timber Organisation;

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Australia (AFFA);

Telstra, Australia;

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC);

The International Liaison Committee (ILC);

The Bureau of Land Management, USA; and

Emergency Management Australia (EMA).

## **Summit Program**

- 0830hrs** Welcome by Host (The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, NSW, Australia)
- 0840 hrs** Overview of business by Chairperson The Hon Neville Wran QC
- 0855 hrs** A Message from Mr Jan Egeland, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, read by the Mr Juan Carlos Brandt, Director of the UN Information Centre in Sydney, in honour of the International Wildland Fire Summit and the UN International Day of Disaster Reduction.
- 0910 hrs** Opening Remarks on behalf of International Tropical Timber Organisation: Dr. Eva Mueller, Assistant Director, Reforestation and Forest Management.
- 0915 hrs** Presentation on Principles for International Fire Management Projects including group discussion: Gary Morgan.
- 0950 hrs** Presentation on Template Arrangement for international assistance including group discussion: Ricardo Velez-Munoz
- 1025 hrs** Presentation on ICS as the International Protocol for Emergency Management including group discussion: Murray Dudfield
- 1100 hrs** Morning tea
- 1130 hrs** Presentation on current global and regional networks: Johann Goldammer
- 1140 hrs** Strategy for Future Development of International Cooperation in Wildfire Management: Denny Truesdale
- 1220 hrs** Discussion on the presentations.
- 1245 hrs** Lunch
- 1340 hrs** Presentation by Telstra Australia on new technology.
- 1345 hrs** Regional presentation: South East Asia (Ibu Liana Bratasida, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation, Indonesia)
- 1415 hrs** Regional presentation: Latin America (Patricio Sanhueza, Chile and Roberto Martínez, Mexico)
- 1445 hrs** Afternoon Tea
- 1515 hrs** Discussion of Strategy for Future Development
- 1545 hrs** Consideration of final versions of position papers.

1630 hrs Consideration of draft communiqué

1800 hrs Close

1830 hrs Dinner Cruise

### ***Further Information***

The Scope Statement and the four Summit position papers are now on the Wildland Fire Conference Website (see [www.wildlandfire03.com](http://www.wildlandfire03.com) ).

Further information about the International Wildland Fire Summit is available from the Executive Officer on (02) 8845 3514 or by email [Duncan.Sutherland@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Duncan.Sutherland@rfs.nsw.gov.au).

### ***Countries attending the Summit***

Australia

Belorussia

Botswana

Brazil

Cambodia

Cameroon

Canada

Chile

China

Colombia

Ecuador

Ethiopia

Finland

Germany

Ghana

Honduras

Indonesia

Italy

Korea

Malaysia

Mexico

Mongolia

Myanmar

New Zealand.

Panama

Papua New Guinea

Peru

Philippines

Russian Federation

Scotland

South Africa

Spain

Sudan

Switzerland

Thailand

USA

N=36

***International Agencies attending the Summit***

ASEAN Haze Technical Task Force

AusAID

Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan

FAO

Global Fire Monitoring Centre

GTZ

International Tropical Timber Organisation

IUCN

The Nature Conservancy

International Union of Forestry Research Organizations

Global Observation of Forest Cover and Land

N=11

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This message brought to you by the

International Association of Wildland Fire

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On the web at [www.iawfonline.org](http://www.iawfonline.org)

Official publications Wildfire Magazine ([www.wildfiremag.com](http://www.wildfiremag.com)) and the

International Journal of Wildland Fire  
([www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ijwf/](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ijwf/))

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FireNet mailing list

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