



## Mitigation of Human Caused Wildfires

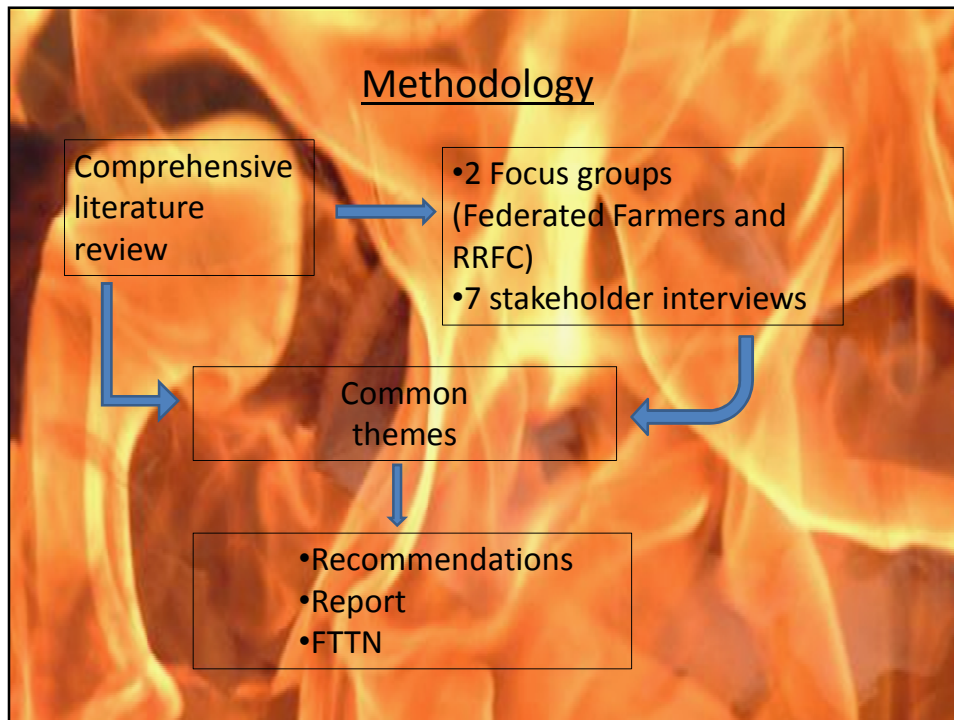
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## Aims and content

- To produce evidence-based recommendations to reduce the incidence of human caused wildfire in New Zealand
- Three types of wildfire causes:
  - Arson and malicious fires;
  - Accidents (visitors and tourists)
  - Land owners: lifestylers / farmers

*Wildfire: any uncontrolled, non-structural fire burning in a grass, scrub, bush or forested area.*



## Arson and maliciously set fires

<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire rarely attributed to arson; major problem</li> <li>• Certain times and places riskier</li> </ul> <p><b>What helps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving knowledge</li> <li>• Modelling and mapping;</li> <li>• Multi agency working</li> <li>• The public</li> <li>• Education and intervention</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More mapping and profiling</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• More multi agency work</li> <li>• Consistent reporting</li> <li>• Better data collection</li> <li>• Research and best practice</li> </ul>
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## Accidents: visitors and tourists

- **Context**
- Little research
- Serious risk
- Public's lack of understanding and knowledge
- Continuum of public's behaviour

### **What helps?**

- Education
- Information campaigns
- Information
- Restrictions
- Public Informants

### **Recommendations**

- Improving information
- Email alerts to schools
- Target overseas visitors
- Further restrictions

## Carelessness and Negligence: Lifestylers

- **Context**
- Growth of RUI
- Newcomers have less understanding of fire
- 3 types of ignorance identified

### **What helps**

- Practical changes
- Information and education
- Permit regulations

### **Recommendations**

- More information outlets
- Council planners: fire awareness
- Personalised contact
- Multi agency working

## Carelessness and Negligence: Farmers

- **Context**
- Most common known cause of wildfire in NZ
- Maintain the privilege
- Tiny proportion
- 3 reasons for escapes
- Particular issues in high country
- **What helps**
- Information
- Permit requirements
- Prosecutions, cost recovery
- **Recommendations**
- Investigate prescribed burns in high country
- Targeted campaign



## In conclusion

- Human caused fire serious problem
- Suggestions from literature and qualitative study
- Important for agencies to keep updated with research to enable risk reduction