

Biodiversity – ecological communities

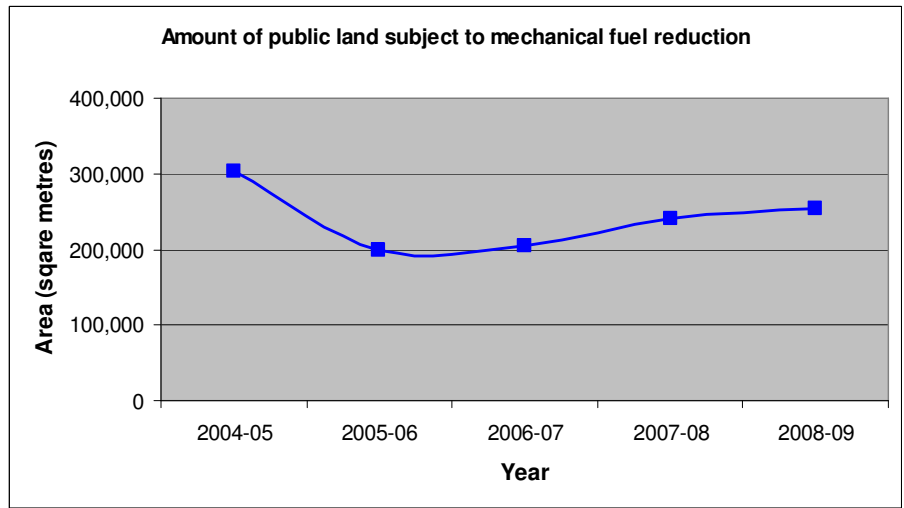
What are we monitoring?

Amount of public land subject to mechanical fuel management works

What is the trend?

The amount of public land subject to mechanical fuel management works decreased between 2004-2005 and 2008-2009. Trends within the data associated with mechanical fuel management works are influenced by a complex set of factors. Most asset protection zones are now into a maintenance phase, and maintenance work is far less time consuming than time required to establish these cleared areas.

The total area treated per year does not follow the same trend as the number of sites. The total area treated is somewhat variable, and this variability is largely influenced by more area being treated in 2004-2005 due to the establishment of new asset protection zones. A reduction in total area treated in later years is also a result of greater targeting of asset protection zones and reduction in the size of individual treatment areas due to the limitation imposed by the *Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code*.



Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Total Program Area (sq.m)	303,157	199,268	205,351	240,734	254,000

Why is monitoring this trend important?

Monitoring of these trends provides information on the amount of land subject to disturbance as a result of mechanical fuel management practices, which may translate in pressure on the sustainability of biodiversity within these modified and managed zones. While it is intuitive that there will be some effect on biodiversity within repeatedly treated asset protection zones, these impacts are not well understood and are not easily quantified.

Source: Blue Mountains City Council