



## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **Fire & Air Forum Biodiversity, Environmental Sustainability and Human Health**

The WA Forest Alliance is delighted to be co-hosting (with the Royal Society of Western Australia) the Fire and Air Forum 2023 at the University Club of WA on Friday 5th May.

Over 200 people are expected to attend the event to hear from experts from around Australia.

High-profile speakers include E/Prof Don Bradshaw (UWA), Prof Kingsley Dixon (Curtin Uni), Prof David Lindenmayer AO (ANU), A/Prof Marta Yebra (Director ANU-Optus Bushfire Research Centre of Excellence), Adjunct A/Prof Phillip Zylstra (Curtin Uni), Dr Carolyn Orr (Neurologist & Member DEA) and Dr Adeleh Shirangi (Adjunct A/Prof Curtin & Murdoch Unis).

Forum convenor Dr Carole Peters says that the Forum will, “bring together a broad audience of Traditional Owners, environment groups, land carers, firefighters, medical and health professionals, students and concerned community members”.

“Pervasive smoke pollution heightens concern about the frequency, scale and intensity of planned burns, risks to public health and safety, risks to biodiversity and the escalating risks of climate change. Our speakers will expand the conversation on how best to protect our natural landscapes and our people for a sustainable and healthy future,” said Dr Peters.

Wafa campaign director Jess Beckerling says there is a clear need for an independent review to assess the environmental and bushfire risk implications of current prescribed burning practices.

“The latest science confirms that frequent fire in some ecosystems is not only having catastrophic environmental and human health impacts but is also exacerbating bushfire risk.”

“We are delighted to welcome experts from a range of fields from around Australia to discuss this critically important issue,” said Ms Beckerling.

**MEDIA INFORMATION: contact Forum Convenor Dr Carole Peters:**  
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The Fire and Air Forum is convened and organised by Dr Carole Peters and hosted by the WA Forest Alliance and the Royal Society of Western Australia. It is sponsored by the Wilderness Society, Conservation Council of WA, Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre, Margaret River Regional Environment Centre, South-West Forests Defence Foundation, Birdlife WA, Denmark Environment Centre, Fire and Biodiversity WA, South Coast Environment Group, Urban Bushland Council, Doctors for the Environment WA and the ACF Perth Community Group, as well as independent donors and volunteers.

**A full program of speakers and timetable is available on the WA Forest Alliance website:** [https://bit.ly/FireAirForum\\_schedule](https://bit.ly/FireAirForum_schedule)