



ICONS TO ASHES: Indictment of Walpole Wilderness prescribed burning to be released

Icons the Ashes, the landmark report on the impacts of prescribed burning in the Walpole Wilderness Area (WWA), will be launched at the Denmark Environment Centre on Wednesday the 7th of June at 5.30pm.

Icons to Ashes documents the catastrophic impact of current prescribed burning by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on the unique ecological values of WWA, one of Western Australia's natural wonders.

Among the marvels in the WWA are tingle and karri, some of the largest trees in the world, charismatic red-flowering gums with an international following, threatened wildlife including mainland quokkas, and super-diverse ancient peatlands hosting relict plant species that date back to Gondwanan times.

The report presents findings from a series of ecological field trips by local conservationists and scientists to the Walpole Wilderness, as part of an extensive campaign by the FaBWA group. BirdLife WA, the Denmark Environment Centre and WA Forest Alliance have endorsed the report.

It calls for an urgent re-think on burning practices, highlighting that regular burning is not only having massive impacts on forests and wildlife, but has also been scientifically demonstrated to be increasing the risk of bushfire.

Dr Catherine Spaggiari from the Denmark Environment Centre, says that: "We are urging the State Government to commit to a full and independent enquiry, and to make the necessary changes to prevent further decline and loss of these ancient and world-renowned trees and ecosystems before it's too late."

The report makes 15 recommendations regarding the need for an independent expert commission of enquiry; urgent management actions; research, monitoring and evaluation; and improving governance and accountability.

FaBWA Convenor Bart Lebbing stated that "the report highlights the detrimental effects the current practice has on our fragile ecosystems with the need to have better outcomes in order to guarantee the longevity of these systems for future generations. Current practices literally turning our iconic species and wetlands into ashes"

LAUNCH: THE ICON TO ASHES REPORT

Wednesday, June 7 at 5.30pm, Denmark Environment Centre
Rear, 35 Strickland St, Denmark WA 6333

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