

# Wildlife and fuel reduction burning

**F**ire plays an important role in shaping the habitat for many animal species. Like plants, some animals benefit from regular burning of their habitat.

**A**s a fuel reduction burn is much less intense and much slower moving than a bushfire, fuel reduction burning poses a much smaller risk to animal survival.

Larger animals are able to move out of danger while birds and other flying species can avoid the fire by flying away. Highly mobile animals such as Bennetts wallabies can bounce back through breaks in the fire. Burrowing animals, like wombats, are often able to survive within their burrows.

Some smaller animals can shelter underground, in hollows or among rocks. Fuel reduction burns have minimal impacts on tree canopies. As such, large and small animals high in the trees are likely to be little affected by the fire passing below.

**T**he greatest risk that bushfires present to most animals is during their breeding season. Fuel reduction burning allows for the timing to be set to minimize the risk to breeding patterns, particularly for rare and threatened species.



## Fuel Reduction Program