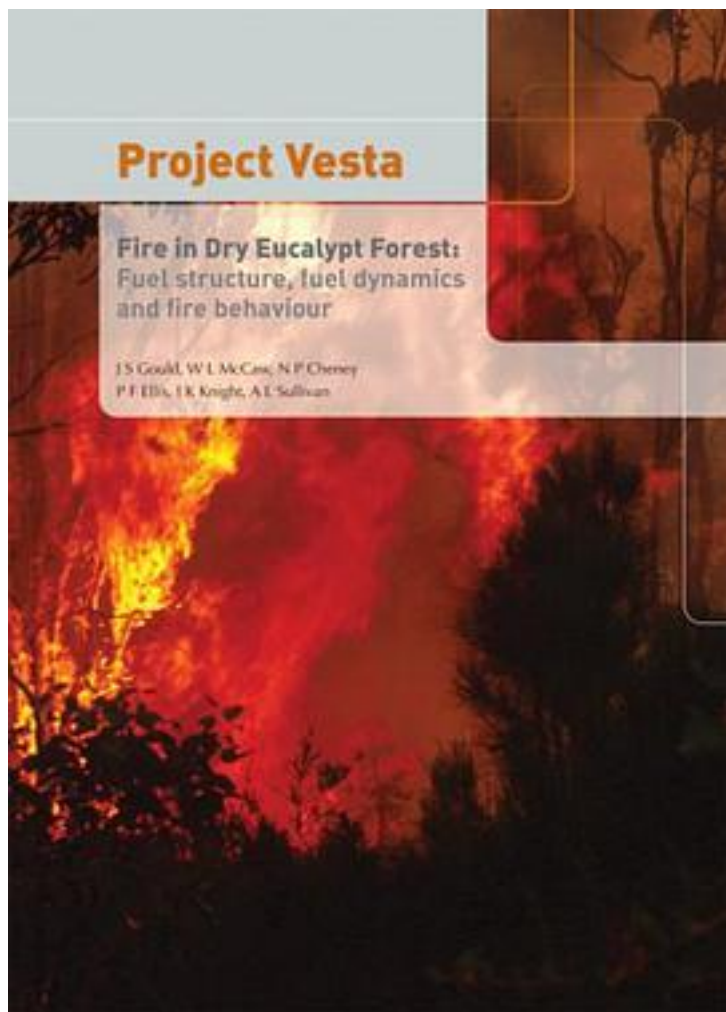


Project Vesta



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Project Vesta was a comprehensive research project to investigate the behavior and

spread of high-intensity bushfires in dry eucalypt forests with different fuel ages and understorey vegetation structures. The project was designed to quantify age-related changes in fuel attributes and fire behavior in dry eucalypt forests typical of southern Australia. The four main scientific aims of Project Vesta were: * To quantify the changes in the behavior of fire in dry eucalypt forest as fuel develops with age (i.e. time since fire) * To characterize wind speed profiles in forest with different overstorey and understorey vegetation structure in relation to fire behavior * To develop new algorithms describing the relationship between fire spread and wind speed, and fire spread and fuel characteristics including load, structure and height * To develop a National Fire Behavior Prediction System for dry eucalypt forest These aims have been addressed through a program of experimental burning and associated studies at two sites in the south-west of Western Australia.

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