

Fire & Regeneration

The Burning Question

Fire has been part of our forest landscape since Australia broke away from the giant supercontinent Gondwana and began to drift into warmer latitudes, tens of millions of years ago.

Much more recently – just a few million years in the past – eucalypt trees evolved. Fire was part of the environment, and eucalypts adapted to it beautifully – so well that some species came to rely on fire for regeneration.

Then, during the last 30,000 years (just the blink of an eye in geological time), Tasmanian Aboriginal people used fire as a land management tool. When they arrived during the last glacial period, the climate was much colder and drier than it is today. Areas of grasslands and buttongrass moorlands were extensive – Aboriginal fires helped to maintain the extent of these open, unforested areas.

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