FARMS, FIRE AND FUELS:



exploring the relationship between cropland fires and modern farming.

Rachel Westcott

Translational Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University; Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC. R.Westcott@westernsydney.edu.au

CROPLAND FIRES - THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

"No-till farming"
organic matter
crop productivity
fire risk??

Use of firebreaks economics area of cropped land fire risk ??

Crop placement

- type & flammability
- asset protection
- crop rotation

2005 "Wangary" fire 79,000 hectares < 6 hrs 9 human deaths

2015 "Pinery" fire 86,000 hectares < 8 hrs 2 human deaths



RESEARCH DRIVERS:

- Climate change
- Securing food certainty
- Safety of assets, property & animals
- Human well-being and resilience



Business Cooperative Research Centres Programme



