**Transcript**

***Dr Sarah Avitabile – Fire ecology in the Mallee***

My research is in fire ecology. So that is the way that fire regimes affect animals and plants in our ecosystems. The area that I work is in the Mallee region which is up in northwestern Victoria but also extends up into New South Wales and South Australia. And, the things that I’m interested in are the interactions between fire and habitats and biodiversity.

Well, my research is part of some larger collaborative projects which include the Mallee Fire and Biodiversity Project and currently the Mallee Hawkeye Project and these projects aim to determine the way that fire effects the distribution of animals but also the way it effects key habitat characteristics in the landscape, and also to look at the most effective ways of monitoring the effect of fire on biodiversity.

Well, our results will inform both fire and land managers that work in this region and help them continue to improve their fire management. We also, as well as communicating our results to the managers we hope to communicate it to the broader community to increase people’s understanding of fire and help us make more informed decisions about the way that fire’s managed into the future.