



Fire from the Sky

A personal account of the early days
of aerial burning in Western Australia

Roger Underwood



FIRE FROM THE SKY

Fighting fire with fire (burning forest fuels under mild weather conditions) has long been recognised as the only effective means of combatting fierce and damaging bushfires.

In Western Australia in the early 1960s, a revolutionary technology was developed: lighting fuel reduction burns using aircraft. Its adoption by forest managers ensured there was an entire generation of Western Australians protected from the ravages of severe wildfires. Later this technology was adopted by foresters and bushfire authorities throughout Australia and in many overseas countries.

This is the story of how aerial burning was developed and of the people who did it.

Roger Underwood is a former District and Regional Forester in Western Australia and the author of several books on forestry and bushfire history.

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