

1 **Interactive comment on “Greenhouse gas emissions from**  
2 **laboratory-scale fires in wildland fuels depend on fire**  
3 **spread mode and phase of combustion” by N.C. Surawski**  
4 **et al.**

5  
6 **N.C. Surawski et al.**

7 Correspondence to: Nic Surawski (Nicholas.Surawski@csiro.au)

8  
9 Our responses to the first reviewer’s comments are detailed below.

10 **Overall comment:** The reviewer states that: “The sampling approach is not validated,  
11 the math is described in a misleading and inconsistent manner, and there is no practical  
12 application of the results even if the experiment had been done correctly.”

13 **Response:** The revised version of the manuscript comprehensively addresses the three areas  
14 of the manuscript requiring improvement; namely, validating the sampling approach,  
15 discussing our emission factor calculations in a more transparent fashion and demonstrating  
16 practical application of our results.

17 **Major comment 1 on measurement approach:** There is an important place for lab  
18 measurements in fire research. For instance, smoke data can be obtained with instruments that  
19 might not be field worthy. However, when working close to a fire, elucidation of the impact  
20 of fire behavior on emissions is only valid if it can be shown that the sampling is  
21 representative of the overall lab fire emissions for all the behavior types considered. In other  
22 words, it needs to be shown that the smoke is well mixed so that data acquired at the sampling  
23 point do not reflect a fire-behavior impact on the height at which emissions from different  
24 processes are released. As an example, Christian et al., (2004) show that temperature and  
25 mixing ratios are constant across the stack at the level where sampling occurs for their lab  
26 fires. (Prior to that test, they published results based on an optical path that spanned the whole  
27 stack.) The good mixing Christian et al confirmed was due largely to a torus surrounding the  
28 base of the stack that promotes turbulent mixing. In contrast, wind tunnels are designed to  
29 eliminate turbulence, which discourages good mixing. In fact, Christian et al considered wind  
30 tunnel measurements, but found that wind tunnel fires produced a strong vertical temperature  
31 gradient with hot gases (flaming emissions) mostly at the top of the wind tunnel and cooler

1 gases (smoldering emissions) lower. Thus, the CO/CO<sub>2</sub> ratio depends strongly on the point-  
2 sampling height selected. This separation of process-specific emissions likely varies strongly  
3 by fire spread mode. In other words, the author’s CO/CO<sub>2</sub> data could be reproducible, but not  
4 be representative of fire behavior effects if the emissions are not well mixed and flaming  
5 emissions have greater tendency to rise above their one fixed sampling point for some spread  
6 modes. Without evidence that this artifact does not occur the data are not of value.

7 **Response:** The same comment was made by the second reviewer as well. We have added a  
8 new section to the discussion section of this article called “Representativeness of combustion  
9 wind tunnel emissions measurements” (section 4.1 in revised version of manuscript) and a  
10 new Table of supporting data (Table 3 in revised manuscript) which together provide further  
11 analysis supporting our measurement approach. In this new section, we calculate the reaction  
12 Damköhler number ( $Da$ ) which is the ratio of the flow time scale to the chemical reaction  
13 time scale (Law, 2006). We calculate  $Da$  at two flame heights and axial positions within the  
14 flow with  $Da$  exceeding  $10^6$  in all cases. Therefore, for the species we measure in this  
15 experimental effort, the timescale required for chemical reaction is very short relative to the  
16 flow timescale in our combustion wind tunnel. Therefore, the chemical reactions are at  
17 equilibrium (or are “frozen”) by the time our sampling manifold is reached and furthermore  
18 do not depend on sampling height.

19

20 The new section in the discussion (section 4.1) reads: “Since emissions sampling was  
21 conducted at a single fixed height above the wind tunnel floor (see section 2.1), further  
22 analysis needs to be conducted to ensure the representativeness of measurements. If chemical  
23 reactions were still occurring at the axial position of sampling, and if those reactions had a  
24 dependence on sampling height, then the emissions measurements obtained would not be  
25 representative of the entire plume. Here we calculate the reaction Damköhler number ( $Da$ )  
26 (Law, 2006, p. 189) which characterises the ratio of the flow time scale ( $\tau_F$ ) to the chemical  
27 reaction time scale ( $\tau_C$ ). The reaction Damköhler number is given by:

$$Da = \frac{\text{Characteristic flow time}}{\text{Characteristic reaction time}} \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{\tau_F}{\tau_C}$$
$$= \frac{kL}{\bar{U}}$$

1 where  $\tau_F$  is given by the characteristic length scale ( $L$ ) divided by the characteristic velocity  
2 ( $\bar{U}$ ) (Law, 2006) and  $\tau_C$  is the reciprocal of the reaction rate ( $k$ ). We choose  $L$  as the axial  
3 distance from the flame position to the sampling manifold (either 3.6 or 8.4 m),  $\bar{U}$  as the  
4 mean wind speed employed during testing ( $1.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) with  $k$  given by the lumped kinetic  
5 scheme of Ranzi et al. (2008), which describes the production of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}$  (plus  
6 other carbon compounds) from biomass pyrolysis. We calculate  $k$  at two heights within the  
7 flame, with maximum temperatures at the flame base being based on those recorded by  
8 thermocouples on the CSIRO Pyrotron floor, whilst flame tip temperatures are based on  
9 measurements made in eucalypt shrubs by Wotton et al. (2012). Calculation of the reaction  
10 Damköhler number enables us to assess how close the relevant chemical reactions are to  
11 equilibrium at two flame heights and axial positions within the flow, with the results of this  
12 calculation being shown in Table 3.

13

14 We see that the reaction Damköhler number depends on vertical position within the  
15 flame, with smaller  $Da$  being observed at the flame tip (i.e.  $3.0 \times 10^6$ ) compared to the  
16 flame base ( $1.8 \times 10^8$ – $2.9 \times 10^8$ ). There is also variation in the  $Da$  observed with different  
17 fire spread modes which is due to differences in the maximum flame base temperature and  
18 the influence it has on reaction kinetics. Whilst we see variation in  $Da$  with respect to fire  
19 spread mode and vertical position within the flame, all of the  $Da$  exceed  $10^6$  (rounded to the  
20 nearest order of magnitude) which does not change the conclusion that the reactions are

1 near equilibrium or "frozen" (Jenkins et al., 1993). Hence, we can conclude from this analysis  
 2 that our emissions sampling is representative of the entire plume since the timescale  
 3 required for the relevant chemical reactions to occur is very short relative to the flow  
 4 timescale.

5

6 Table 3 in the revised manuscript reads:

**Table 3.** Calculation of the reaction Damköhler number ( $Da$ ) for several axial positions and flame heights within the flame.

Fire spread mode	$T_{\text{flame tip}}$ (K)	$T_{\text{flame base}}$ (K)	$\tau_F$ (s)	$\tau_{C_{\text{flame tip}}}$	$\tau_{C_{\text{flame base}}}$	$Da_{\text{flame tip}}$	$Da_{\text{flame base}}$
Heading	540	1170	5.6	$8.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.0 \times 10^6$	$2.6 \times 10^8$
Heading	540	1170	2.4	$8.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.0 \times 10^6$	$1.1 \times 10^8$
Flanking	540	1050	5.6	$8.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.0 \times 10^6$	$1.8 \times 10^8$
Flanking	540	1050	2.4	$8.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.1 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.0 \times 10^6$	$7.7 \times 10^7$
Backing	540	1220	5.6	$8.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.9 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.0 \times 10^6$	$2.9 \times 10^8$
Backing	540	1220	2.4	$8.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.9 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.0 \times 10^6$	$1.3 \times 10^8$

1

13 **Major comments 2a-d on EF's.**

14 **Comment 2a:** The reviewer states that: "Emission factors (EF) are meant to be used with fuel  
 15 consumption data and fuel consumption data explicitly doesn't count unburned carbon that  
 16 remains on the site".

17 **Response 2a:** One factor that the reviewer has neglected to consider in their comment is that  
 18 burnt fuel carbon does not necessarily have to be emitted to the atmosphere, even though most  
 19 of it is. As we detail in later in this set of responses (i.e. major comment 2), burnt carbon  
 20 could be present in the post-fire combustion residues as black carbon, ash or partially  
 21 charred/combusted fuel.

22

23 Based on our literature research we conducted, Andreae and Merlet (2001) suggest that best  
 24 practices in fire research **should** consider burnt carbon present in the post-fire residue. For  
 25 example, Andreae and Merlet suggest: "Calculation of this parameter (i.e. emissions factors)  
 26 requires knowledge of the carbon content of the biomass burned **and the carbon budget of**  
 27 **the fire**; both parameters are difficult to establish in the field as opposed to laboratory  
 28 experiments where they are readily determined."

1 It is generally common practice in atmospheric chemistry research to only consider carbon  
2 emitted to the atmosphere and to neglect carbon remaining in the post-fire combustion residue  
3 that has been burnt. Since this was a laboratory based study we considered the complete  
4 carbon budget of the fire, which as Andreae and Merlet suggest is simpler to do in a  
5 laboratory, rather than field, setting. Considering that we have taken this additional factor  
6 into account does not indicate that we have done anything it wrong, it merely suggests that we  
7 have considered **the complete carbon budget of the fire** as recommended by Andreae and  
8 Merlet.

9 **Comment 2b:** Following on from this point, the reviewer then suggests: “The authors are  
10 confused about this and make misleading statements about emission factors in other work.  
11 Further, they express EF both in the normal g/kg and as unspecified percentages.” Related to  
12 this point, the reviewer then states: “Further, they express EF both in the normal g/kg and as  
13 unspecified percentages.”

14 **Response 2b:** This comment was also made by the second reviewer (please see major  
15 comments 2a-b on EF’s). In this article we have reported emissions factors two ways;  
16 namely: 1) as a percentage of the burnt carbon or nitrogen, or 2) on a per unit dry fuel  
17 consumed basis. We have modified the sentence on page 23133 (line 17) to make it clear that  
18 when we report emission factors as a percentage, it is a percentage of the total carbon or  
19 nitrogen burnt and not some “unspecified percentage” as claimed by both reviewers.  
20 Furthermore, we have furnished this revised sentence with several references to indicate that  
21 reporting emission factors this way has occurred widely in the emissions literature since the  
22 method was developed by Radke et al. in 1988. This revised sentence now reads: “A carbon  
23 mass balance approach developed by Radke et al. (1988), and applied (for example) by Lobert  
24 et al. (1990), Hurst et al. (1994a), Hurst et al. (1994b), and more recently by Meyer et al.  
25 (2012), was used to calculate emissions factors for different carbon- and nitrogen-based  
26 pollutants on a per unit element burnt basis.”

27 **Comment 2c:** The reviewer then states: “The authors are correct that some burned C is  
28 converted to charcoal and this is a source of a small error in some standard carbon balance  
29 approaches. However charcoal yields are generally small and should not be confused with  
30 remnants of unburned carbon. For instance, Kuhlbusch et al. (1996) noted: “The ratio of black  
31 carbon produced to the carbon exposed to the fire in this field study (0.6–1.5%) was  
32 somewhat lower than in experimental fires under laboratory conditions (1.0–1.8%) which

1 may be due to less complete combustion.” Some of their black carbon was in the emitted  
2 particles and some in the ash, with the ash portion representing the error in the carbon mass  
3 balance method due to C in the residue. When charcoal yields are high, as in the case of  
4 purposeful charcoal production, a method to adjust the CMB for this has already been  
5 published (Bertschi et al., 2003).”

6 **Response 2c:** Kuhlbusch report black carbon production percentages of 1.0-1.8% (relative to  
7 total carbon exposed) based on laboratory testing; however, based on preliminary <sup>13</sup>C NMR  
8 results conducted by the authors (which we reserve for presentation in a future publication)  
9 we think this percentage varies from 3% for heading fires to 7.5% for backing fires. This  
10 percentage is calculated by ascribing aryl structures from the NMR spectrum as being  
11 aromatic in nature and relatively resistant to degradation. Recent field work conducted by  
12 Volkova et al. (2014) on carbon emissions from prescribed burning and wildfire has noted  
13 increased charring of combustion residues from lower intensity fires (such as those conducted  
14 in this study) compared to wildfire. Thus, there is empirical evidence to support our results  
15 suggesting greater black carbon production relative to Kuhlbusch et al. More importantly  
16 though, Kuhlbusch et al. report on a number of carbon possibilities post-fire with black  
17 carbon representing only a portion of the carbon forms present. There will also be partially  
18 charred/combusted material, ash and also some unburnt (but nonetheless thermally exposed  
19 and altered) leaf, bark and twig remnants. Thus, the reviewer is incorrect in suggesting that  
20 post-fire carbon is composed merely of black carbon and an unburnt carbon pool.

21 **Comment 2d:** The reviewer also makes the suggestion that our combustion factors are small  
22 and that only non-carbon containing elements can be significant in the post-fire combustion  
23 residue.

24 **Response 2d:** Kuhlbusch et al. (1996) report backing fire carbon volatilisation percentages of  
25 72% for the FP 4/2 fire and 78.2% for the FP 4/1 fire which is in excellent agreement with  
26 ours (74.8%). For heading fires Kuhlbusch et al. report carbon volatilisation percentages  
27 between 85.4% (KPE/1 fire) and 95.5% (KP3/3) which is, once again, very similar to ours  
28 (88.3%). Therefore, our carbon volatilisation percentages are in agreement with the  
29 Kuhlbusch et al study. It should also be noted that combustion factors near 100% could occur  
30 in extreme wildfire situations; however, in our experimental fires (please see Table 1) the  
31 Byram fireline intensity is more indicative of a prescribed fire situation. As a result, we  
32 would expect combustion factors less than 100% as indicated by our results. Furthermore,

1 our results and those of Kuhlbusch et al suggest that it is possible to get 30% of total fuel  
2 carbon deposited in the post-fire combustion residue despite claims being made to the  
3 contrary by the reviewer.

4 **Major comment 3 on application of results:** A serious problem is that real fires present a  
5 mix of fire spread modes (as the authors themselves state) and in any case there is no way to  
6 operationally monitor fire spread modes for all the fires of importance, especially since the  
7 majority of global biomass burning goes undetected from space (Yokelson et al., 2011). Even  
8 if single spread modes were applicable to real fires, and they could be routine measured,  
9 many other factors effect emissions interactively such as fuel geometry, moisture, RH, etc.;  
10 and wind effects on the ability of a fire to propagate are probably far more important than  
11 subtle emissions differences. I.e. wind has other impacts such as aiding fire spread in  
12 dispersed fuel, making fire control more difficult, and possibly enabling ignition of live fuels  
13 that might not burn otherwise. Wind interacts with fire induced convection in complex ways.  
14 None of variables can be operationally monitored in complex fire environment and realistic  
15 replication of some complex fuel beds including live, moist, or large fuels etc. is probably not  
16 feasible. If the numerous variables could be controlled one at time there are likely still non-  
17 linear interactions between driving variables.

18 **Response:** We agree with the reviewer that most global fires cannot be managed; however, in  
19 the section of the manuscript where we apply our results (section 4.5 of the revised  
20 manuscript) we are considering prescribed fire where there is explicit choice (i.e. selected  
21 before the burn) regarding the range of variables that the reviewer discusses in their comment;  
22 such as: wind speed, fuel moisture as well as the ignition pattern. This is operationally  
23 achieved by carefully selecting the ignition timing to correspond with fire weather conditions  
24 that are appropriate for achieving the objectives of the burn. Furthermore, the ignition pattern  
25 selected is based on a judicious choice regarding the moisture, load and contiguity of fuels,  
26 the prevailing wind speed and direction as well as topography and the presence of firebreaks.  
27 In our current article, we argue that mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions could become  
28 part of the overall prescribed burn design; of which we assess the potential of by applying  
29 single fire spread modes over a landscape. Whilst we agree that a single or universal fire  
30 spread mode cannot be achieved in a prescribed fire situation; in practice, a variety of ignition  
31 patterns are commonly employed in such operations that enable the fire spread modes we  
32 considered (i.e. heading, flanking and backing) to predominate in different fuel, weather and

1 topographical conditions. We add a sentence to the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph in section 4.5 (page 21 of  
2 revised manuscript) stating that ignition patterns exist which enable a single fire spread mode  
3 to predominate. This new sentence reads: “Whilst it would not be possible to apply a single  
4 fire spread mode to a forested landscape in a prescribed fire situation, ignition patterns are  
5 practised in Victoria which enable a single fire spread mode to predominate (Tolhurst and  
6 Cheney, 1999), such as the three investigated in this study.

7 **Other miscellaneous comments:** Real fires burn with a mix of smoldering and flaming that  
8 is further not operationally available. Both main hypotheses are already in literature. Keene et  
9 al showed fire spread mode impacts MCE and countless papers have already shown that CH<sub>4</sub>  
10 correlates with MCE.

11 **Response:** The unique aspect of our study was outlined on page 23128 where we state “In  
12 this study, we re-examine the burning methodology of Keene et al. in a controlled laboratory  
13 study with an explicit experimental design combined with statistical testing of results. As  
14 such, examining the hypothesis that greenhouse gas emissions could depend on fire spread  
15 mode is the major focus of this article.” The only greenhouse gas species measured in the  
16 study of Keene et al. was CO<sub>2</sub> (which we stated on page 23128 line 14 of the original  
17 manuscript) which motivated us to revisit their burning methodology (i.e. heading, flanking  
18 and backing) to assess its impact on other greenhouse gas species. This is the basis of our  
19 original contribution in this article; not the other foci suggested by the reviewer.

20

21 Comments below were put in a Page, Line format by the reviewer.

22 **Comment 1:** 2, 4: diameter?

23 **Response:** Change made.

24 **Comment 2:** 2, 14: twice as much CO as what?

25 **Response:** We’ve added to some more detail to the end of this sentence to make it clear that  
26 heading fires produced twice as CO as flanking and backing fires.

27 **Comment 3:** 4, 1: Actually there are an infinite number of possible angles, they are normally  
28 mixed, plus any real fire has multiple wind directions.

29 **Response:** We emphasise that we are referring to the three “mutually independent” fire  
30 spread modes in this article, whereas the reviewer is referring to an infinity of directions



1 obtained by linear combinations of the fires spread modes we considered. To avoid confusion  
2 though, we have changed the word “different” in this sentence to “main” to account for the  
3 possibility of having many fire spread modes.

4 **Comment 4:** 4, 20-24: There is no way to operationally monitor fire spread modes and in fact  
5 the majority of global fires go completely un-detected, plus no single fire spread mode applies  
6 to a whole fire.

7 **Response:** For wildfire this may be true, but this is not the case for a prescribed fire where  
8 monitoring the fire spread mode is an explicit consideration in the conduct of such a burn  
9 (Tolhurst and Cheney, 1999). (please see our response to major comment 3 on  
10 representativeness of experiments).

11 **Comment 5:** 6, 1: all gas sampling at one height – no evidence well mixed for all fire types

12 **Response:** We have added a new section to the manuscript (section 4.1 in the revised version  
13 of the manuscript) which addresses this comment. Please see our response to reviewer 1’s  
14 major comment on our sampling design (major comment 1).

15 **Comment 6:** 7, 15: windspeed of 1.5 m/s or ~5 km/h kind of low

16 **Response:** This wind speed is one that is relevant for prescribed fire.

17 **Comment 7:** Pages 9-11: un-needed lengthy discussion of old math, plus a misprint in eqn 7

18 **Response:** These points were also raised by reviewer 2. Considering that both reviewers  
19 questioned the reporting of emission factors on a per unit element burnt basis (as a  
20 percentage), we thought it would be good practice to methodically work through our methods  
21 of calculation including relevant references to make our calculations transparent to the readers  
22 of this paper. The typographical error in equation (7) has been corrected.

23 **Comment 8:** 14, 21-24: “Fire spread mode had a statistically significant effect on CO<sub>2</sub>  
24 (p<0.0001), CO (p<0.0001) and carbon residue emissions (p<0.0001) but did not have a  
25 statistically significant effect on CH<sub>4</sub> (p = 0.269) or N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (p = 0.261).” Something  
26 went wrong here because fire spread mode effects MCE and CH<sub>4</sub> is strongly correlated with  
27 MCE and the authors claim N<sub>2</sub>O is strongly correlated with CH<sub>4</sub>.

28 **Response:** The reviewer is incorrect in suggesting that something has “gone wrong” with our  
29 MCE versus CH<sub>4</sub> results. Below we have included a plot of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions factors which  
30 shows a statistically significant relationship with MCE (p < 0.0001, R<sup>2</sup>=0.68). The source of

1 confusion for the reviewer is, perhaps, that we don't get a statistically significant relationship  
2 between CH<sub>4</sub> emission factors and fire spread mode due to the observed variability in our data  
3 set.

4  
5 Also, the reviewer is mistaken in stating that we claimed a correlation between CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O  
6 emissions. Whilst on page 23139 lines 3-18 we say (in a general way) that CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O  
7 emissions are increased during smouldering combustion, but we do not claim that they are  
8 correlated.

9 **Comment 9:** 14, 23: "carbon residue emissions"?

10 **Response:** Changed to carbon residue production.

11 **Comment 10:** 15, 17-18: On the same page the authors first claim that CH<sub>4</sub> increases during  
12 smoldering and N<sub>2</sub>O doesn't, then a few lines below they make opposite claim.

13 **Response:** The source of confusion for the reviewer here is that lines 3-18 (page 14) discuss  
14 the results numerically, whereas formal testing of results for statistical significance occurs on  
15 lines 19-27. What appears like a trend numerically may not pass the test as being statistically  
16 significant. To alleviate this confusion we have added two sentences on page 14.

17

18 We add the first sentence in line 8 stating: "In this paragraph we discuss the numerical trends  
19 found, whilst the next paragraph discusses testing of our results for statistical significance."

20

21 The second sentence is added in line 25 stating: "Whilst the non-significant result for CH<sub>4</sub>  
22 may appear to contradict the trends discussed in the previous paragraph, the CH<sub>4</sub> results are  
23 more variable which prevents a statistically significant result from being found."

24 **Comment 11:** Page 17:In general: The EF has to be multiplied by fuel consumption to get  
25 emissions!

26 **Response:** We are aware of that, but for equivalence of the two methods in reporting total  
27 emissions we need to multiply emissions estimates (obtained from an emissions factor

1 reported per unit dry fuel consumed) by  $\sum C_{emit} / C_{fuel}$  at some point as we correctly  
2 suggested on page 17.

3 **Comment 12:** 17, 11-12: Wrong, the widely used CMB approach assumes that burned fuel  
4 carbon (except for charcoal) is emitted to the atmosphere

5 **Response:** We disagree with the reviewer. This is merely the assumption we want to relax by  
6 considering the fraction of burnt carbon that is emitted to the atmosphere by explicitly  
7 multiplying by  $\sum C_{emit} / C_{fuel}$ . For example, in one of the references provided by the reviewer

8 (Bertschi et al., 2003) they state in paragraph [21] (2<sup>nd</sup> sentence): “we assume that all the  
9 burned carbon is volatilized ...”. As discussed in our response to the major comment on EF’s  
10 by the 1<sup>st</sup> reviewer (please see major comments 2a-d) burnt carbon is not completely emitted  
11 to the atmosphere. Once again, to be in a position to estimate  $\sum C_{emit} / C_{fuel}$  one needs to

12 consider **the complete carbon budget of the fire** (i.e. emitted to the atmosphere and burnt  
13 and remaining in the post-fire residue) as suggested by Andreae and Merlet (2001). In  
14 addition, charcoal (although a small fraction of total fire exposed carbon but larger in our  
15 results) is not the only carbon form present in the post-fire combustion residue **not** emitted to  
16 the atmosphere. In our results, we show that a significant fraction (between 10-30%) of total  
17 (fire exposed) carbon is left in the post-fire combustion residue in a variety of forms  
18 including: black carbon, ash, partially charred/combusted material and some thermally  
19 exposed/altered fuel.

20 **Comment 13:** 17, 17: If fuel carbon remains on site and is not counted as fuel consumption  
21 then the authors approach will incorrectly estimate carbon emissions.

22 **Response:** We disagree with the reviewer. To be counted as fuel consumption the fuel has to  
23 be burnt and emitted to the atmosphere. Burnt carbon remaining on site does not get counted  
24 as consumed because it is not emitted to the atmosphere.

25

26 Furthermore, it is apparent to the authors of this paper (based on comments 12 and 13) that  
27 there is some confusion regarding the difference between the terms burnt and consumed. We

1 have added two sentences in the first paragraph of section 4.2 (page 17 lines 20-24 in the  
2 revised manuscript) stating: “For our purposes, we define ‘burnt’ as fuel that has been  
3 thermally altered as a result of exposure to fire and either emitted to the atmosphere or left in  
4 the post-fire residue. We define ‘consumed’ as that component of the fuel that is emitted to  
5 the atmosphere as a result of exposure to fire.

6 **Comment 14:** 18, 6: How can EF be expressed as a percent?

7 **Response:** This comment was also made by the second reviewer. We described this in section  
8 2.4.1 of the original manuscript (Calculation of emissions factors). As stated earlier under the  
9 major comment on EFs (please see major comments 2a-d) we added a sentence showing that  
10 reporting emission factors per unit of element burnt has been done widely since the 1980’s in  
11 the atmospheric chemistry literature.

12 **Comment 15:** 18, 12-14: Here the authors explain perfectly why their work has no realistic  
13 application, real fires, they state, have mixed spread modes.

14 **Response:** We addressed this earlier under the major comment on Application of our results  
15 (please see major comment 3). In prescribed fire situations in Australia, the ignition location  
16 (and hence the fire spread mode) is a controllable parameter (Tolhurst and Cheney, 1999).

17 **Comment 16:** Table 1: Does not label the fire spread modes?

18 **Response:** We added fire spread mode and fuel moisture content as two extra columns to this  
19 table in the revised manuscript.

20 **Comment 17:** Table 2: The footnote discusses comparisons that are not in the table

21 **Response:** We have removed the footnote to Table 2 as its contents appear elsewhere in the  
22 manuscript.

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