

Bushfire Survival Plan

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Tomorrow's Queensland: strong, green, smart, healthy and fair

Department of Community Safety





You must **PREPARE**. **ACT**. **SURVIVE**.

Your main priority is to ensure that you and your family are safe. During a bushfire you and your family's survival and safety depend on your preparations, and the decisions you make.

The lives of you and your family are more important than any building.

Whether your plan is to leave early or stay, you must prepare your home and property to increase their level of resilience and your chances of survival.

Bushfires in Queensland

The fire season in Queensland normally commences in the far north of the state in July and progresses through to southern areas as spring approaches. The fire season can extend through to February in southern and far south-western Queensland. These time frames can vary significantly from year to year, depending on the fuel loads, long-term climate and short-term weather conditions in each area.

There are four key considerations for dealing with bushfire:

- The safety of you and your family.
- The resilience of your property.
- The protection of irreplaceable valuables and important documents.
- The maintenance of adequate levels of insurance.

This document will provide you with information about the things you need to consider to prepare yourself and your home for the bushfire season, and how to make your own personal Bushfire Survival Plan.

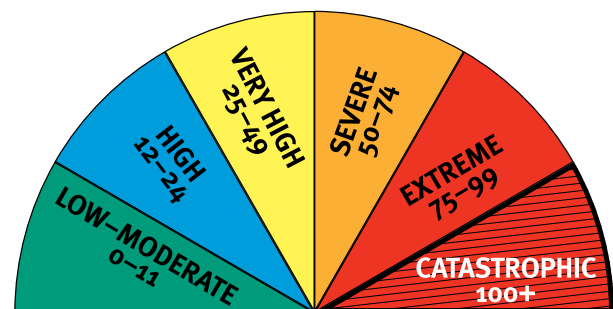
It is your responsibility
to prepare yourself, your
family and your
home for the threat
of bushfire.

Understand your risk

The first step in planning to survive a bushfire is to understand your own level of risk. By understanding your own level of risk you will be able to make informed decisions that are right for you and your family. Included with this Bushfire Survival Plan is a self-assessment tool that will enable you to assess the risk level associated with your property. If you are still unsure of your level of risk or require assistance contact your local fire station for more information. To book a Bushfire Safety presentation call 1300 369 003.

Fire danger ratings

The increased frequency of extreme bushfires in Australia in the last 10 years and the recent experience of the Black Saturday fires in Victoria have encouraged fire services throughout Australia to introduce new levels of Fire Danger Rating (FDR). A lift-out chart of the FDR system is contained within this document. Display it in a prominent place in your home or keep it with your Bushfire Survival Plan.



Catastrophic fire danger rating

The highest level is catastrophic. On a day of catastrophic FDR leaving early is the only option to ensure your survival. You must relocate early to a safer location, hours or the day before a fire occurs. Under no circumstances will it be safe to stay with your property.

Extreme fire danger rating

The second highest level is extreme. Should a fire occur in your area on a day of extreme FDR leaving early will always be the only option. Staying can only be considered for homes that:

- Have been designed and constructed specifically to address the threat of bushfire.
- Have been maintained to those levels and are currently well prepared.
- Can be actively defended by people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to implement a well-rehearsed Bushfire Survival Plan.

On days of catastrophic or extreme FDR:

- Fires are likely to be uncontrollable, unpredictable and very fast moving with highly aggressive flames extending high above tree tops and buildings.
- Thousands of embers may be violently blown into and around homes causing other fires to start rapidly and spread quickly up to 20 kilometres ahead of the main fire.
- Fire can threaten suddenly, without warning, and the heat and wind will make it difficult to see, hear and breathe as the fire approaches.
- People in the path of such fires will almost certainly be injured or die and a significant number of homes and businesses will be destroyed or damaged.
- Even well-prepared and constructed homes will not be safe.
- Expect power, water and phone networks to fail as severe winds bring down trees, power lines and blow roofs off buildings well ahead of the fire.

It is vital that you understand on these days that your survival will depend solely on how well you have prepared and how decisively you act.

Leaving late can be
a deadly option.
If you are in any doubt,
make the decision to
LEAVE EARLY.

What will you do?

At all times you need to **PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE.**

When the fire danger rating is '**catastrophic**' leaving early is the safest option.

When the fire danger rating is lower than '**catastrophic**', one of the most important decisions you need to make is whether you will leave early or stay with a well prepared property. This decision is the basis of your Bushfire Survival Plan.

The following questions may help you make the right decision for whether you will leave early or stay:

- Do you need to consider family members who are young, elderly or infirm?
- Are you physically and emotionally prepared to stay with your property?
- Do you have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to stay with your property?
- Is your home adequately constructed, maintained and prepared to withstand the impact of a fire? In other words, is your home prepared to withstand the impact of a bushfire?
- Do you have well-maintained resources and equipment to fight fire, and do you know how to use them?
- Do you have appropriate protective clothing to fight a fire?
- What will you do if a rapid onset fire leaves you with no time to leave? Where will you shelter?



Leave early

If you plan to leave early then you must leave your home well before a bushfire threatens and travelling by road becomes hazardous. Your leave early preparations include:

Step 1: Preparation – your property should be well prepared for bushfire even if you intend to leave early.

Step 2: What you will do – make your Bushfire Survival Plan in accordance with your decision to leave early.

Step 3: Make a contingency plan – the FDR, the preparedness of your home, a change in household circumstances, a change in your physical preparedness or unexpected visitors are some things that may require you to reconsider your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Planning to stay

Planning is critical to successfully staying with your home may involve the risk of psychological trauma, injury or death.

Step 1: Preparation – your property must be able to withstand the impact of bushfire and well prepared to shelter you and your family.

Step 2: What you will do – make your Bushfire Survival Plan in accordance with your decision to stay.

Step 3: Make a contingency plan – the FDR, the preparedness of your home, a change in household circumstances, a change in your physical preparedness or unexpected visitors are some things that may require you to reconsider your Bushfire Survival Plan.

In making your decision to stay, here are a few things you need to consider.

- Is your property able to withstand the impact of a bushfire?
- Are you physically and emotionally prepared to stay with your property?
- Do you have well-maintained resources and equipment and do you know how to use them?
- Do you have appropriate protective clothing?
- Will your bushfire survival plan need to be different for weekdays, weekends or if someone is sick at home?
- Do you have a contingency plan?

Preparing your Bushfire Survival Plan

Preparation is the key to survival. Being involved in a fire will be one of the most traumatic experiences of your life.

- Prepare yourself – you need to be both mentally and physically prepared to carry out your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Prepare your Bushfire Survival Kit.
- Prepare your Bushfire Relocation Kit.
- Prepare your property.

When writing your plan you need to consider:

- Have you made the right choice: to leave early or stay?
- Have you discussed your choice with your family, friends and neighbours?
- Who will take charge and lead other family members by carefully communicating the various tasks set out in the plan?
- If you have chosen to stay what will you do to protect your property when the fire arrives?
- What will you put in your Bushfire Survival Kit and where will you store it?
- Do your friends, family and neighbours know the details of your plan?

- What will you do if your Bushfire Survival Plan fails?
- Do you have an alternative option or contingency plan if your plan fails?
- Do you have a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) you can go to as a last resort? For more information on NSPs see www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au.
- Is it safe to travel there?

If your decision is to leave early, you must include the following information or action items in your Bushfire Survival Plan:

- Monitor media outlets – radio, TV, mobile phone and internet for bushfire alerts.
- When will you leave?
- What will be your trigger for action?
- Will your plan be different for weekdays, weekends, or if someone is at home sick or injured?
- What will you take with you (Relocation Kit)?
- Where will you and your family go when you leave early?
- What route will you take to get there?
- What will you do with your pets?
- What will you do if there are consecutive or multiple **'catastrophic'** or extreme fire danger days?
- Will you go into work on days when the FDR is in the upper levels?
- Will you send your children to school when the FDR is in the upper levels?
- Will all members of your household leave early?
- What will you do to prepare your property?
- What is your contingency plan in the event that it is unsafe to leave?

If your decision is to stay you must include the following information or actions items in your Bushfire Survival Plan:

- Monitor media outlets – Radio, TV, mobile phone and internet.
- Locate your Bushfire Survival Kit.
- Put on protective clothing.
- Remain hydrated by drinking lots of water.

- Move any stock to fully grazed paddocks.
- Move cars to a safe location.
- Remove garden furniture, doormats and other items.
- Close windows and doors and shut blinds.
- Take down curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- Seal gaps under doors and window screens with wet towels.
- Place pets inside, restrain them, and provide water.
- Block downpipes and fill gutters with water.
- Wet down the sides of buildings facing the approaching fire front.
- Wet down decks and verandas.
- Wet down fine fuels close to buildings.
- Turn on sprinklers in garden before bushfire arrives.
- Fill containers with water; bath, sinks, buckets, wheelie bins, etc.
- Have ladders ready for roof space access (inside) and against roof (outside).
- Have generator or petrol pump ready.
- Start checking and patrolling for embers outside.

When the fire front arrives:

- Take all fire fighting equipment inside such as hoses and pumps as they may melt during the fire.
- Go inside and shelter away from the fire front.
- Patrol the inside of your home, including the ceiling space, for embers or small fires that may start.
- Drink lots of water.
- Check family and pets.

After the fire front has passed:

- Wear protective equipment.
- Go outside once it is safe.
- Check for small spot fires and burning embers:
 - inside roof space
 - under floor boards
 - under house space
 - on veranda and decks

- on window ledges and door sills
- in roof lines and gutters
- garden beds and mulch
- wood heaps
- outdoor furniture
- sheds and carports
- Continue to drink lots of water.
- Stay at your property until the surrounding area is clear of fire.
- Monitor media outlets – radio, TV, mobile phone and internet.

You need to be both mentally and physically prepared to carry out your Bushfire Survival Plan

There may be other actions to include, depending on your individual property and the level of bushfire risk you are exposed to.

Include the whole family in creating your Bushfire Survival Plan. You and your family should be aware of the actions you will take at the various FDR levels and it is important to ensure this is incorporated into your Bushfire Survival Plan. The FDR for your area can be found on roadside signs and by visiting www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au and following the FDR link.

It is important that your Bushfire Survival Plan does not rely solely on receiving an alert.

Once you have completed your Bushfire Survival Plan, practise it regularly to ensure everyone involved knows exactly what to do in the event of a fire.

Preparing your Bushfire Survival Kit

It is essential that you have a Bushfire Survival Kit if your choice is to stay with your property. This kit will ensure you and your family have the important equipment you need to stay. For a comprehensive list of equipment needed in a Bushfire Survival Kit see page 14.

Preparing your Bushfire Relocation Kit

It is equally important to have a relocation kit if your choice is to leave early. This kit will ensure you and your family have important items and equipment required to relocate for the time needed. For a comprehensive list of items and equipment needed in a Bushfire Relocation Kit see page 15.

Making a contingency plan

No matter whether your decision is to leave early, well before a bush fire threatens or to stay you should still have a contingency plan as part of your Bushfire Survival Plan. There are many scenarios to consider, such as what you will do if a rapid onset fire starts in your local area making roads impassable or travel particularly dangerous. You should have other options if road travel is not safe.

- Is your house well prepared?
- Can it provide you with protection from radiant heat?
- Have you identified a safer location such as an NSP?

Sheltering in a well-prepared property is far safer than being out in the open or in a vehicle

Preparing your property

An unprepared property is not only at risk itself, but may also present an increased danger for your neighbours and their homes.

Planning is absolutely critical to safely staying with your home. Staying home involves the risk of psychological trauma, injury and death.

There are a number of measures you can take to prepare your home and property for bushfire. These include several preparations you must take annually prior to the bushfire season.

Your pre-season property preparations should include:

- Displaying a prominent house number.
- Ensuring there is adequate access for fire trucks to your property – 4 metres wide by 4 metres high with a turn-around area. Reduce vegetation loads along the access path.
- Mowing your grass regularly.
- Removing excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches).
- Clearing of leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters.
- Purchasing and testing the effectiveness of gutter plugs.
- Trimming low-lying branches 2 metres from the ground surrounding your home.
- Enclosing open areas under your decks and floors.
- Installing fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes.
- Pointing LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house.
- Conducting maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems.
- Checking that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment.
- Relocating flammable items away from your home including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture.
- Sealing all gaps in external roof and wall cladding.
- Checking that the first aid kit is fully stocked.

Bushfire Alerts

If you receive an emergency warning about a bushfire or other emergency, take notice as it could save your life.

There are three types of alert messages to help you make the right safety choices:

Bushfire Advice Message – a fire has started – general information to keep you up to date.

Bushfire Watch and Act Message – represents a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing, a fire is approaching; lives may come under threat. Take appropriate action.

Bushfire Emergency Warning – is the highest level message advising of impending danger. It may be preceded with the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS).

An Emergency Warning
means there is a threat
to lives and protective
action is required
immediately.

When a bushfire strikes

You have made your decision to **PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE**. You have prepared your property before the fire season. You have made your Bushfire Survival Plan. You have practised your Bushfire Survival Plan.

A bushfire is threatening? What do you do?

- Know the FDR for any given day.
- Regularly check the FDR on the Rural Fire Services website at www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au.
- Monitor your media outlets for warnings on bushfire activity.
- Seek out information if you have to, and do not assume that you will receive a warning.
- Leave early or stay according to your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Act decisively in accordance with your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Do not adopt the 'wait and see' option.

Travelling in your vehicle near a bushfire

Sheltering inside a vehicle is a high-risk strategy that can result in death. Whilst sheltering inside a vehicle offers you a slightly higher chance of survival than being caught in the open, having a leave early or stay strategy is a much safer option.

You should never take a journey into areas where the fire danger is catastrophic or extreme. You should consider postponing or finding alternative routes if necessary. If you can smell or see smoke in the distance it is best to u-turn and drive away from the danger.

If you are caught in smoke or flames while on the road:

- Turn on the vehicle's headlights and hazard warning lights.
- If you need to shelter in your vehicle drive your car into a bare, clear area well away from surrounding trees, leaving lights on. Position vehicle to prevent side impact from advancing fire front.
- Close all windows and vents.
- Leave the engine running and turn off the air conditioning system.
- Cover your entire body with woollen or cotton blankets to protect from radiant heat.
- Take shelter below the window level.
- Drink water frequently and stay in the vehicle until the fire front has passed.
- Once the fire front has passed exit the vehicle to inspect the damage and ensure other passengers are safe.

Neighbourhood Safer Places

A Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) is a place of last resort for people during a bushfire. An NSP may form part of a back-up plan when:

- Your Bushfire Survival Plan has failed.
- Your plan was to stay but the extent of the fire means that your home cannot withstand the impact of the fire and therefore your home is not a safe place to shelter.
- The fire has escalated to an extreme or catastrophic level and relocation is the safest option.

An NSP is an identified building or open space within the community that can provide a level of protection from the immediate life-threatening effects of a bushfire. NSPs still entail some risk, both in moving to them and while sheltering in them and cannot be considered completely safe.

They are a place of *last resort* in bushfire emergencies only. The following limitations of NSPs need to be considered within your Bushfire Survival Plan:

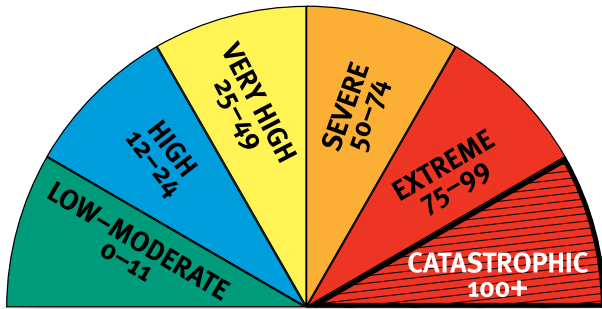
- NSPs do not cater for pets.
- Firefighters may not be present as they will be fighting the main fire front elsewhere.
- NSPs do not provide meals or amenities.
- They may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers.

If you are a person with special needs you should give consideration to what assistance you may require at an NSP.

Although QFRS cannot guarantee an immediate presence during a bushfire, every effort will be made to provide support as soon as resources are available.

If an NSP is part of your contingency plan it should not require extended travel through fire-affected areas to get there.

FIRE DANGER RATING



The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is an early indicator of potential danger and should act as your first trigger for action. The higher the rating the greater the need for you to act.

The FDR is an assessment of the potential fire behaviour, the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and the potential impact on the community should a bushfire occur on a given day.

A Fire Danger Index (FDI) of 'low-moderate' means that fire will burn slowly and that it will be easily controlled, whereas a FDI in excess of 'catastrophic 100+' means that fire will burn so fast and so hot that it will be uncontrollable.

CATASTROPHIC 100+

A fire with a rating of 'catastrophic' may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. The flames will be higher than roof tops. Many people will be injured and many homes and businesses will be destroyed.

During a 'catastrophic' fire, well-prepared and constructed homes will not be safe. Leaving is the only option for your survival.

EXTREME 75-99

A fire with an 'extreme' rating may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. The flames will be higher than roof tops. During an 'extreme' fire, people will be injured and homes and businesses will be destroyed.

During an 'extreme' fire, well-prepared and well-constructed homes may not be safe. Leaving is the only option for your survival.

SEVERE 50-74

A fire with a 'severe' rating may be uncontrollable and move quickly, with flames that may be higher than roof tops. A 'severe' fire may cause injuries and some homes or businesses will be destroyed.

During a fire with a 'severe' rating, leaving is the safest option for your survival. Use your home as a place of safety only if it is well-prepared and well-constructed.

VERY HIGH 25-49

A fire with a 'very high' danger rating is a fire that can be difficult to control with flames that may burn into the tree tops. During a fire of this type some homes and businesses may be damaged or destroyed.

During a fire with a 'very high' danger rating, you should use your home as a place of safety only if it is well prepared and well-constructed.

HIGH 12-24

A fire with a 'high' danger rating is a fire that can be controlled where loss of life is unlikely and damage to property will be limited.

During a fire with a 'high' danger rating, you should know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes.

LOW-MODERATE 0-11

A fire with a 'low to moderate' rating can be easily controlled and pose little/or no risk to life or property.

During a fire with a 'low to moderate' rating, you should know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes.

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Complete your personalised Bushfire Survival Plan lift-out.

Personal details:

Important phone numbers: **000** (Fire, Police and Ambulance)

Family: _____ Family: _____ Family: _____

Work: _____ Friends: _____ Friends: _____

School: _____

Important contact details – name and phone number:

Insurer: _____ Policy Number: _____ Phone: _____

Electricity: _____ Phone: _____

Water: _____ Phone: _____

Gas: _____ Phone: _____

Phone Company: _____ Phone: _____

Council: _____ Phone: _____

Leave early:

List all names and contact phone numbers of household members who have decided to leave early then complete Section 1.

Names: _____

Phone: _____

Stay:

List all names and contact phone numbers of household members who have decided to stay, then complete Section 2.

Names: _____

Phone: _____

Leave early – Section 1

Pull this Bushfire Survival Plan lift-out from this document and keep in a safe place.

Leaving early will always be the safest option for you and your family. It is extremely important for you to prepare a detailed leave early plan to ensure everyone understands what to do and when. Use the boxes below to list tasks to do.

When to go – Think of different triggers that will cause you and your family to leave early. Think about what you will do if you have sent the children to school that day. Think about whether or not you will have to travel from work into the fire zone.

Where to go – Identify one or more safer locations. Consider putting on personal protective clothing before you leave home.

How to get there – What roads will you take to your destination? Have an alternative route if your first choice is impassable.

What to take – Make a list of your most valuable items (e.g. insurance papers, electronic records, photo albums, passports, birth certificates and other important documents).

Stay – Section 2

Anyone who is not going to leave early must be involved in completing this stay and defend plan to ensure they know what to do. Every stay plan will be different depending on your circumstances. Use the boxes below to list tasks to do.

Before the fire approaches – Start getting yourself and your property ready for a bushfire.

As the fire approaches – Prepare for ember attack on or near your home.
Remember to put on personal protective clothing.

As the fire front arrives – Stay safe by monitoring the fire from inside your home.

After the fire has passed – Patrol your property and extinguish any spot fires or burning embers.
You may need to keep this up for several hours.

Everyone must have a contingency plan

Have a contingency plan – what will you do if you can't activate your Bushfire Survival Plan? Remember that leaving late can lead to loss of lives.

Know where your nearest NSP is and how to get there.

ACTIVATING YOUR BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Once you have prepared your Bushfire Survival Plan and completed your preparations, it is absolutely essential that you regularly practise and review your plan. This will make sure you and your family are well organised in the event of a bushfire. If a bushfire threatens the health and safety of you, your family, home or property, you should follow these steps:

Step 1 – Activate your Bushfire Survival Plan

Someone must take charge and lead other family members through this emotional experience by carefully communicating the various tasks set out in the plan. Know who is going to leave early and who is going to stay.

Step 2 – Put on your personal protective clothing

Every member of the family must change into their personal protective clothing, including long pants, long-sleeve-shirt and closed-in shoes.

Step 3A – Pack your vehicle and leave early

If your plan is to leave early, pack all valuables in your vehicle (see Relocation Kit) and relocate to your designated safer location. Give yourself enough time to get you and your family to safety. Don't return home until it is safe to do so.

OR

Step 3B – Implement your strategy to stay and defend

If your plan is to stay ensure you have all the items in the Bushfire Survival Kit ready to go. This can be a dangerous option and you should be physically and mentally prepared.

Step 4 – Keep informed of bushfire activity

Listen to the radio, television, internet, firefighters and/or police for information on the fire in your local area. Bushfire is dynamic and unpredictable so you need to be prepared for the unexpected. Warnings are not guaranteed so do whatever is necessary to ensure you remain safe.

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL KIT

You need to have a Bushfire Survival Kit stored in an area of the house that is safe and easy to access. It should contain:

- protective clothing
- mop
- gloves
- torch
- hoses
- shovel
- towels
- buckets
- safety goggles
- ladder
- medications
- bottled drinking water
- fire extinguishers
- battery operated radio
- spare batteries
- smoke mask
- woollen blankets
- first aid kit
- knapsack sprayer
- protective clothing for the whole family.



RELOCATION KIT

Write a list of all items your family will need before, during and after your relocation. The list below shows items that you might like to put in your relocation kit.

- protective clothing for the whole family
- battery operated radio and spare batteries
- safety goggles
- mobile phone and battery charger
- medications
- wallet or purse and money
- clothing (two sets of clothes for each family member)
- identity information (passports, birth certificates)
- bottled water (enough for each relocated family member)
- family and friends' phone numbers
- items of high importance (e.g. family photos, valuables, important documents)
- blankets (natural fibres)
- children's toys



BUSHFIRE RISK SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



This basic self-assessment checklist is designed to give you a greater understanding of the bushfire risk level relevant to your property. Information provided in this assessment will assist you when completing your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Address:

Postcode:

Property Owner/Property Name:

ACCESS/EGRESS

Road/Street/Driveway PLEASE APPROPRIATE BOX

Clear of overhanging vegetation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Unrestricted gate access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Clear of overhead power lines	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Able to reverse in	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Turning/passing areas	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Heavy vehicle access on cattle grid/bridge	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative way out	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Two wheel drive access	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

STRUCTURE/S

Exterior walls – non-combustible	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Roof ridge capping sealed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Eaves enclosed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Roofing gutters and valleys clear of leaf litter and fine fuels	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Underfloor enclosed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Vents screened	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Windows – non-combustible finishing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Deck/veranda non-combustible	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

WATER SUPPLY

Reticulated water supply	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Tank supply with QFRS access – 50mm male camlock fitting so fire fighters can use water if needed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
QFRS accessible external open water supply (dam/pool)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Firefighting pump and hose connected to water supply	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Other considerations

There are a range of other things to be considered regardless of your decision to leave early or stay:

- Firefighting equipment such as pumps, hoses and sprinkler systems should be tested regularly and maintained in maximum operational working condition.
- Firefighters may need access to your property during a bushfire so it is in your best interests to allow enough space for fire trucks (4 metres wide by 4 metres high).
- Your pets, livestock and other animals require proper care and attention during fires. Consider food, medication, transportation and sleeping arrangements for your animals.

Myths versus Reality

Myths	Reality
There will always be a fire truck available to fight a bushfire threatening my home.	Firefighters may be required to fight many fronts of a large fire. Fire trucks and firefighters are finite resources so it is important they are deployed in an appropriate manner to best manage the fire.
I know the back streets in town like the back of my hand so it is OK for me to leave at the last minute.	If your decision in your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave early, then you should leave well before the fire front reaches your property. Irrespective of your local area knowledge you must stick to your plan and leave early. Leaving late can be fatal.
Someone from an emergency service will knock on my door when it is time to leave.	Emergency services personnel may not be available to alert the community by door-knocking and encouraging you to leave. You need to monitor the bushfire alerts by listening to the radio, watching TV or checking the rural fire website. You need to be ready to leave early if your life or the people in your care are at risk.
My house will not burn down because there is more than 50 metres between my home and nearby bushland.	Most houses which burn down during bushfires have been attacked by flying embers. Under certain conditions embers can cause ignitions up to 20kms in front of the main fire. A combination of your level of preparation and your home's construction will determine the survivability of your home.
I only have to clean my gutters and mow my lawns to prepare my property for bushfire.	Fire requires fuel, heat and oxygen to occur. This means that flames or embers do not necessarily rely solely on your gutters and lawns for fuel. They might utilise overhanging trees, woodpiles, old building materials under the deck or chemicals in the garden shed to sustain them. Take the time to properly prepare your whole property, which includes yourself, your house and your land.