



Bushfires

A natural hazard is a naturally occurring event that may cause harm to people and our social wellbeing, damage to property and/or infrastructure and impact our economy and the environment. Bushfires are an example of a natural hazard and the negative impacts of bushfire can be reduced through land use planning and development decisions.

All levels of the planning system seek to ensure that community resilience is increased; hazards are avoided or mitigated where possible and natural hazards are considered. The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain some of the strategies used by Quilpie Shire in order to help mitigate bushfires.

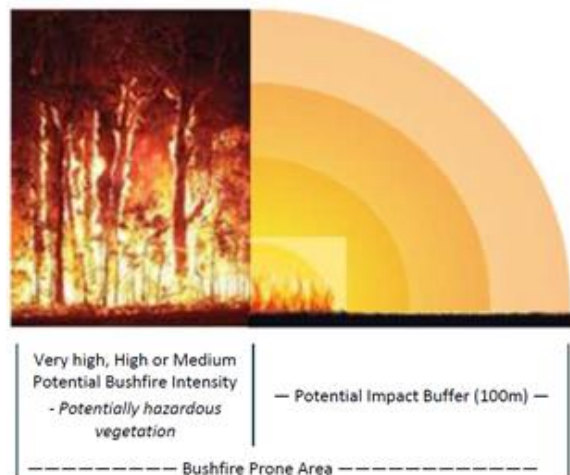
Why do we have designated bushfire risk areas?

Bushfire hazard (bushfire prone areas) area is land that could support a significant bushfire or be subject to significant bushfire attack. By identifying these areas, land use planning and controls on certain developments can help reduce their negative impacts.

Potential Impact Buffer

Even though the fire itself may be burning in a specific area, flame attack, radiant heat exposure may affect properties and people nearby. Land that could be susceptible from such an attack is included in a potential impact buffer. The default width for impact buffers is 100m from all areas of medium, high or very high potential bushfire intensity. The default width of 100m for the potential impact buffer has been determined from analysis of heat radiation decay curves and national research indicating that in most fires over 80% of housing loss and 80% of human life loss has occurred within 100m of bushland.

The width of 100m also coincides with the approximate distance needed to avoid injury to people without specialised protective clothing due to radiant heat exposure from a bushfire with a very high intensity.



(Above) – Potential impact bushfire buffer

Quilpie Shire's Planning Scheme

How does the planning scheme address potential bushfire hazard?

Areas prone to bushfire are identified in the State Government's bushfire mapping. This map is also utilised in the Quilpie Shire Planning Scheme. The Planning Scheme requires that new development considers bushfire risks, the impact on disaster management response or recovery capacity and also ensures that the development will not compromise the capabilities of emergency services, or put people within the development in harm's way.

How do I know if my property is considered to be in the bushfire hazard area?

In this Planning Scheme, the bushfire hazard areas are the same as those identified by the Queensland State Government. To see whether your property is in a bushfire hazard area:

1. Go to Queensland's Government SPP interactive mapping system located at <http://www.dilqp.qld.gov.au/about-planning/spp-mapping-online-system.html>
2. Scroll down, read terms and conditions, and then tick the box next to "*I have read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions.*" Click on "*access to the DA mapping system.*"
3. In the top left hand corner, in the 'navigate to a location' box, type your address. Your property will be indicated by a coloured square on the map
4. In the left hand side, click natural hazards risk and resilience, click bushfire hazard areas.
5. The map will now show you the extent of the bushfire hazard area. Your property is still considered to be in the bushfire hazard area if it covers only part of your property.

What does it mean if my property is in a bushfire hazard area?

If you wish to develop your property, you may need to show the Shire that your intended development **does not**:

- Block direct access to evacuation routes; or
- Store hazardous material in bulk; or
- Is not considered a vulnerable use (ie child care centres, community care centre, educational establishment, rooming accommodation and other uses listed in the General Development Code).

Disclaimer

The contents of this information sheet deals with technical matters in a summary way only and has been prepared to assist the community to understand the Quilpie Shire Council Planning Scheme 2017. Please refer to the Quilpie Shire Council Planning Scheme 2017 for further detail.