

## Natural Hazards - Bushfire

### 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.

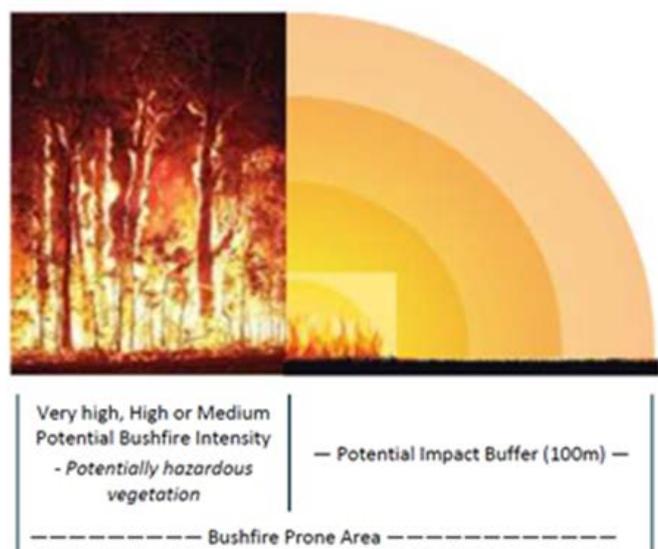
All levels of the planning system seek to ensure that community resilience to natural hazards is increased. The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain some of the strategies used by McKinlay Shire to help mitigate bushfires.

### Why do we have designated bushfire risk areas?

Bushfire hazard areas (bushfire prone areas) 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

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## McKinlay Shire's Draft Planning Scheme

### How does the draft planning scheme address potential bushfire hazard?

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

Bushfire provisions apply to most developments in the Rural zone and are located in the General development code and the Reconfiguring a lot code.

### How do I know if my property is in a bushfire hazard area?

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

1. Go to Queensland's Government SPP interactive mapping system located at <https://spp.dsdip.esriaustraliaonline.com.au/geoviewer/map/planmaking>
2. Click Start
3. In the top ribbon you can choose the option to do a Locality Search (click on Council not Suburb once you are in the locality search) and look at the mapping for the whole Shire, or a property search (under the Search for Land Parcels heading).
4. In the left hand side, click Safety and Resilience to Hazards, then click natural hazards risk and resilience and next click bushfire prone area.
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 are doing a subdivision in a bushfire prone area you must comply with the bushfire provisions in the draft planning scheme. For other development, check the table of assessment for the zone to see if you need to comply with the bushfire provisions in the proposed scheme.

Bushfire provisions are in the General development code and Reconfiguring a lot code.

Provisions may require you to demonstrate to council that your intended development:

- **does not** block direct access to evacuation routes
- **does not** propose landscaping that has the ability to increase the bushfire risk
- **is not** located on slopes that expose people or property to intolerable risks
- **is not** considered a vulnerable use (i.e. child care centre, community care centre, educational establishment, retirement facility).

#### 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 draft McKinlay Shire Planning Scheme 2018. Please refer to the proposed scheme for further detail.